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Chester County

HISTORY and PROGRESS

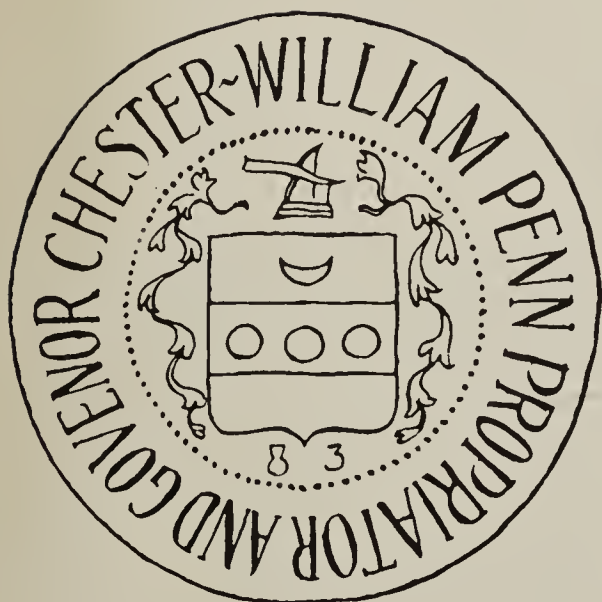
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CHESTER COUNTY

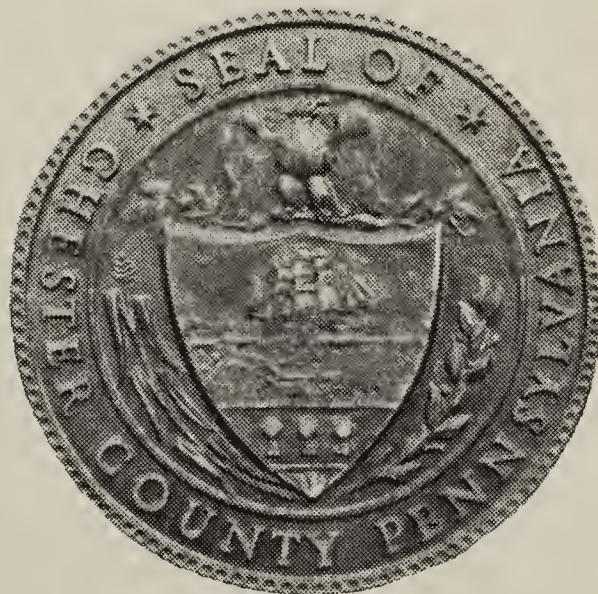


Prepared For and Released by
The Commissioners of Chester County.

Compliments of
THEODORE S. A. RUBINO
Chairman
Chester County Commissioners



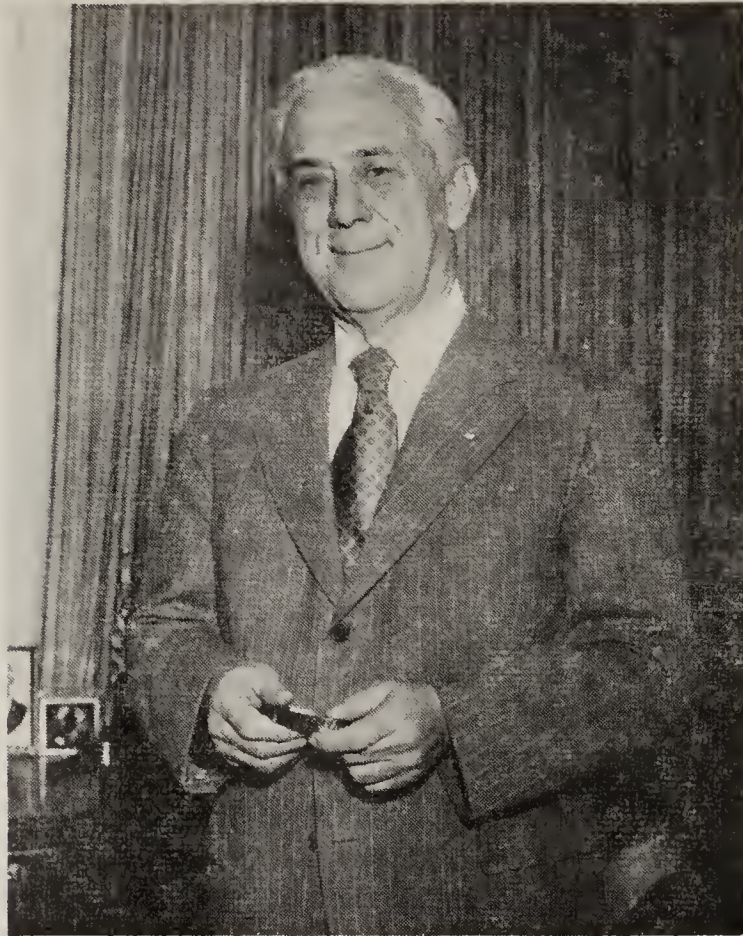
THE FIRST COUNTY SEAL—1683



THE COUNTY SEAL TODAY

OFFICIAL COUNTY SEALS

Chester County Board of Commissioners



Theodore S. A. Rubino, Chairman



Monroe L. Nute



Leo D. McDermott

Foreword

This brochure has been prepared for the County Commissioners as a brief report of the history and culture surrounding the development of Chester County from its origin in 1682 to the present, and as a ready reference of pertinent data and information on its governmental operations for all citizens of the County and others having an interest therein.

It is intended also as a source of information to point up the beautiful countryside, the potential of its abundant resources, its record of unusual opportunity, and to initiate a desire on the part of other individuals and industry to settle here. In recent years our County has developed into the most rapidly growing county in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is further intended to be a ready reference for county students in their studies of civil government.

Since the services rendered to its citizens are manifold and constitute an important aspect of community life, Chester County Government is not something remote from the life of its average citizen. Rather, it plays a prominent role in his everyday existence, affecting him in numerous ways. We, therefore, dedicate this brochure to our citizens that they may have a fundamental background knowledge with which to take an intelligent and active interest in the affairs of our government.

Board of Commissioners

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CHESTER COUNTY
HISTORICAL REFERENCES
and
LOCAL GOVERNMENT



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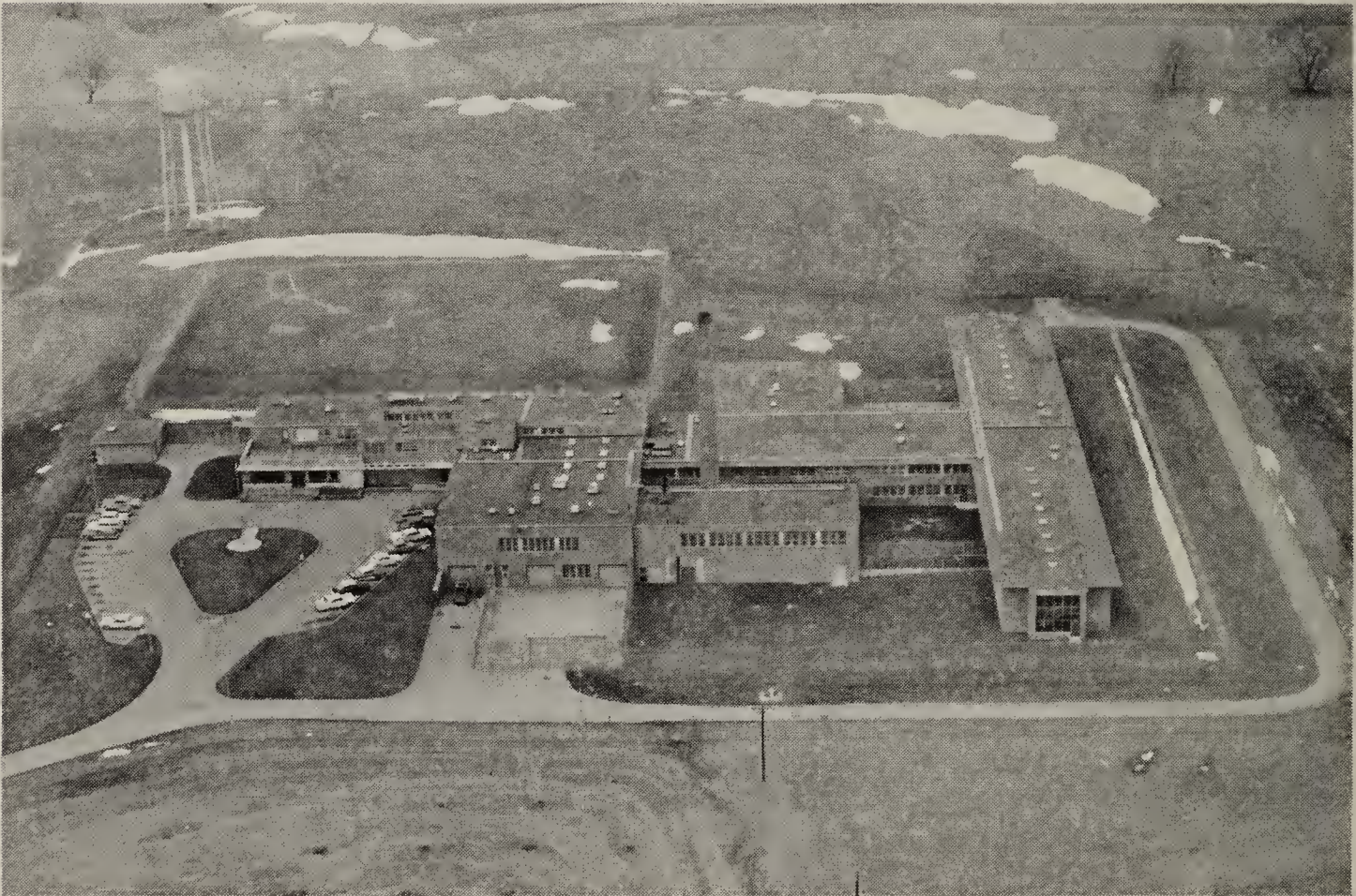
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Diamond Rock School



Chester County Farms—Pocopson

HISTORY AND PROGRESS OF CHESTER COUNTY

Founding

The first European settlers in what later became Pennsylvania were Swedes. In 1644, at the present site of the City of Chester, there was a tobacco plantation known as Upland. The plantation was made up of Swedes. This Swedish settlement came under the control of the Dutch in 1655 and of the English nine years later. The Colony of Pennsylvania was established in 1681 when King Charles II, of England, granted the territory to William Penn in payment of a debt owed to Penn's father. Typical of his sense of Quaker justice, Penn also purchased the land from the Indians. Chester County was created by Penn in 1682 being one of the three original counties of Pennsylvania. The early boundaries of the County extended indefinitely westward from the Delaware River; on the north and northeast it was bounded by the Schuylkill River; on the southeast and south it was bounded by Delaware and Maryland. The Delaware line was a segment of a circle of 12 miles radius from the Court House at New Castle, Delaware. The precise Pennsylvania-Maryland boundary was finally fixed in 1769 when the Mason Dixon Line was ratified. Today's Chester County was established in 1789 when the original county was separated into Chester and Delaware Counties.

Settlers

When the Europeans first settled in Chester County there were Indian villages in several areas. The last of the Indians, "Indian Hannah," died in 1807 at the age of 71. In the southeast townships of Westtown, Thornbury, and Birmingham the land was taken up largely by English-Quakers during the last two decades of the 17th century. They were followed by Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who located mostly in the southwestern part of the County. Finally, by the middle of the 18th century the northern tier of townships had received many settlers from along the Rhine River, the so-called Pennsylvania Dutch.

Our County Seat

Our County Seat is located on a summit at an elevation of 456' with a prevailing temperate climate. The average prevailing temperatures are 31.5 degrees in January, and 75.0 degrees in July. The mean temperature for the year is 49 degrees. The average growing season is 180 days. The last killing frost comes about April 15th, and in the fall the first killing frost about October 15th. The latitude is 39 degrees, 57 minutes, 31.3 seconds North; the longitude is 1 degree, 24 minutes, 57.7 seconds east of Washington, D. C., or 75 degrees, 36 minutes, 32.7 seconds west from Greenwich near London, England.

Topography

The topography of Chester County is a rolling undulated type of countryside, which from Provincial days to the present has attracted men to settle here. In this setting the first settlers often lived for a short time in caves on protected hillsides. The caves were soon followed by log cabins which had been introduced by the Swedes into America.

Homes

One of the early log cabins, built in the early 1700's, is still standing in Downingtown on Lancaster Avenue near the east bank of the Brandywine, East Branch. Most of the log cabins were gradually replaced by Colonial stone houses and farm homesteads. The early architectural designs of narrow buildings with high pitched roofs were later followed by structures better proportioned in width and height. The construction of the late 18th century usually exemplified better craftsmanship than that found in the earlier houses. The fine woodwork of this later period is now highly prized.



Downingtown Log Cabin

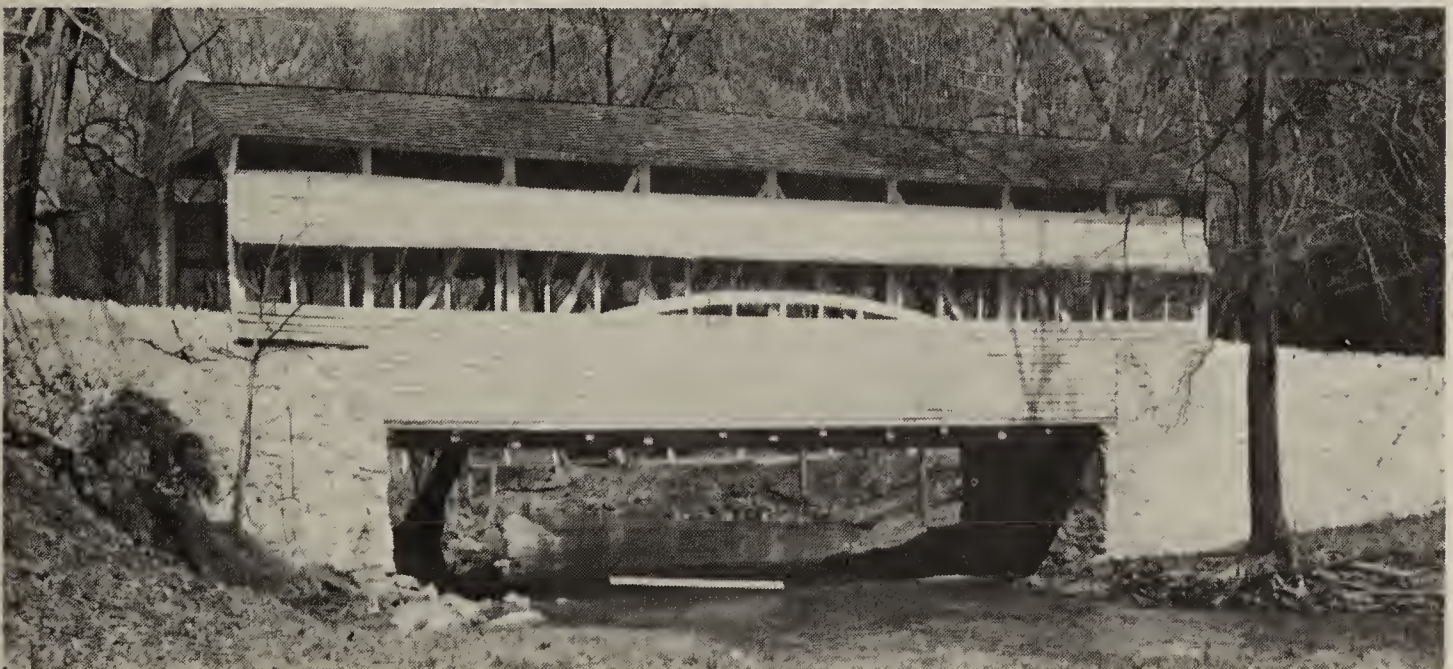
Trails and Roads

Many of the first roads were extensions of Indian trails. The development of roads and bridges was slow. Progress was stimulated in 1678 when the Court at Upland issued an order compelling every property owner, within two months, to

make good and passable ways on his lands for neighbors to use. From these beginnings gradually roads developed. Among the early roads were the Baltimore-Philadelphia road, now known as U.S. 1; the Parkesburg-Cochranville-Oxford-Maryland road surveyed in 1724; the Strasburg road laid out in 1794. Pennsylvania had the first turnpike in America which extended from Philadelphia to Lancaster. It passed through Chester County for some 30 miles and was opened in 1795. It is now a part of the Lincoln Highway. The Horseshoe Pike, Downingtown to Honey Brook, opened in 1803. Tollgates became characteristic landmarks along the early pikes. Other roads followed such as the Wilmington-Reading road via West Chester, (which was planked from West Chester to Dilworthtown), in 1854. Chester County now has an excellent network of good roads. Five miles north of the County Seat is U.S. 30; three miles beyond is the famed Pennsylvania Turnpike. Each of these traverse the State in an east-west direction. Seven miles south of West Chester is U.S. 1, the Baltimore Pike. Passing through or entering the County Seat are highway routes U.S. 202 and 322; and Pennsylvania Routes 3, 29, 52, 100, 162, 926, 342 and 842. Chester County now has 1,130.39 miles of improved State Highways. Of these 1,077.63 miles are in townships; 47.07 miles are in boroughs, and 5.06 are in cities. The County also has 1,451.16 miles of non-state owned roads of which 1,292.81 miles are maintained by townships; 137.7 miles by boroughs; 21.28 miles by cities. The total miles of roads in the County are 2,581.55.

Fords, Ferries, and Bridges

Many of the early County roads forded streams at locations of shallow water. These fords were often impassible after heavy rains. For about two decades after 1737 John Chads, tavern keeper, operated a ferry over the Brandywine near today's Chadds Ford. On the Schuylkill River Pauling's Ferry above Valley Forge was operating after 1753 for a few years and Buckwalter's Ferry near Phoenixville was established in 1859.



Knox Bridge

As early as 1685 the County Court was ordering the construction of bridges. The early bridges were built of wood or stone. Then came structures of iron and, in the 20th century, of reinforced concrete. In 1889 there were 89 wooden covered bridges in Chester County. Some of these were intercounty bridges. Now, in 1968, only 16 of these bridges are left. Two of these, Bartram's and Mortonville, are not in use, while another, on Buck Run, is owned privately by the King Ranch at Buck and Doe Run Farms. At one time there were 25 covered bridges over the Brandywine and its tributaries in Chester County. Four of these are still used—Gibson's south of Downingtown (78' long built in 1870 for about \$2,700); Larkin's over Marsh Creek four miles north of Downingtown (60' long built in 1864 for \$893); Speakman's No. 1 over Buck Run south of Hepzibah (built in 1881 for \$1,938); Pyle-Speakman's No. 2 over Buck Run is owned by the King Ranch. At one time over the Octoraro Creek there were ten covered bridges. Three of these are left—Mercer's (85' long, built in 1880 for \$1,652); Bellbank (110' long, built in 1861); Pine Grove (204' long, built in 1884 for \$3,450. Among other extant covered bridges are two on Big Elk Creek and three on French Creek. Although wooden covered bridges are a carry-over from horse and buggy days they have a charm and individuality typical of less hurried times. Unfortunately, these bridges have been a target for vandals; several colorful old structures have been burned during the past two decades. Two noteworthy early stone bridges still in use are Cope's over the Brandywine west of West Chester (3 arches built in 1807 for \$26,597) and Andrew's Bridge over the Octoraro Creek (439' long with 4 arches built in 1814).

Canals

Among the early modes of transportation, canals played an important part. One of these, the Schuylkill Canal, which was established in 1822, hauled coal up to World War I.

Stage Coaches

Stage Coaches across our Country were the first public transportation. The one from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, was established, in 1804.

Railroads

Railroads were the next pioneers in developing industry and transportation. Between West Chester and Intersection (Malvern), a horse drawn railroad was established in 1831 and replaced with steam in 1845. Others were the Reading Railroad, chartered in Pennsylvania in 1833; the Columbia-Philadelphia Railroad, horsedrawn, in 1833, replaced with steam in 1834; the Pennsylvania Railroad, chartered in 1846, established Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, in 1852; the Chester Valley (Reading) Railroad, Bridgeport to Downingtown, in 1853; the Philadelphia Railroad, West Chester to Media in 1858; the Pennsylva-

nia-Downingtown to Honey Brook, in 1854; the Wilmington Northern (Reading), in 1870; the Philadelphia to Reading, in 1883; the Philadelphia-Baltimore Central Railroad to Oxford, in 1859, thence on to Rising Sun, Maryland in 1865; the Wilmington and Western Railroad to Landenberg, in 1872; the Pickering Valley (Reading), Phoenixville to Byers, in 1871; the Oxford to Peach Bottom (narrow gauge), about 1870; the French Creek (Reading) in 1880.

Trolleys

Trolleys too were developed as another form of transportation. The important lines were the West Chester Street Railway Company, West Chester via Lenape to Kennett Square and West Grove 1895, abandoned 1923, except to Lenape 1929; West Chester to Philadelphia 1899, abandoned 1954; West Chester-Downingtown-Coatesville 1902-1903; Conestoga Traction Company Coatesville-Parkesburg-Lancaster 1909, abandoned in 1932; the Valley Forge-Phoenixville-Spring City Trolley Company ran from Phoenixville to Spring City early 1900's and from Phoenixville to Valley Forge in 1910, both lines were abandoned between 1922-1925.



Great Valley Presbyterian Church

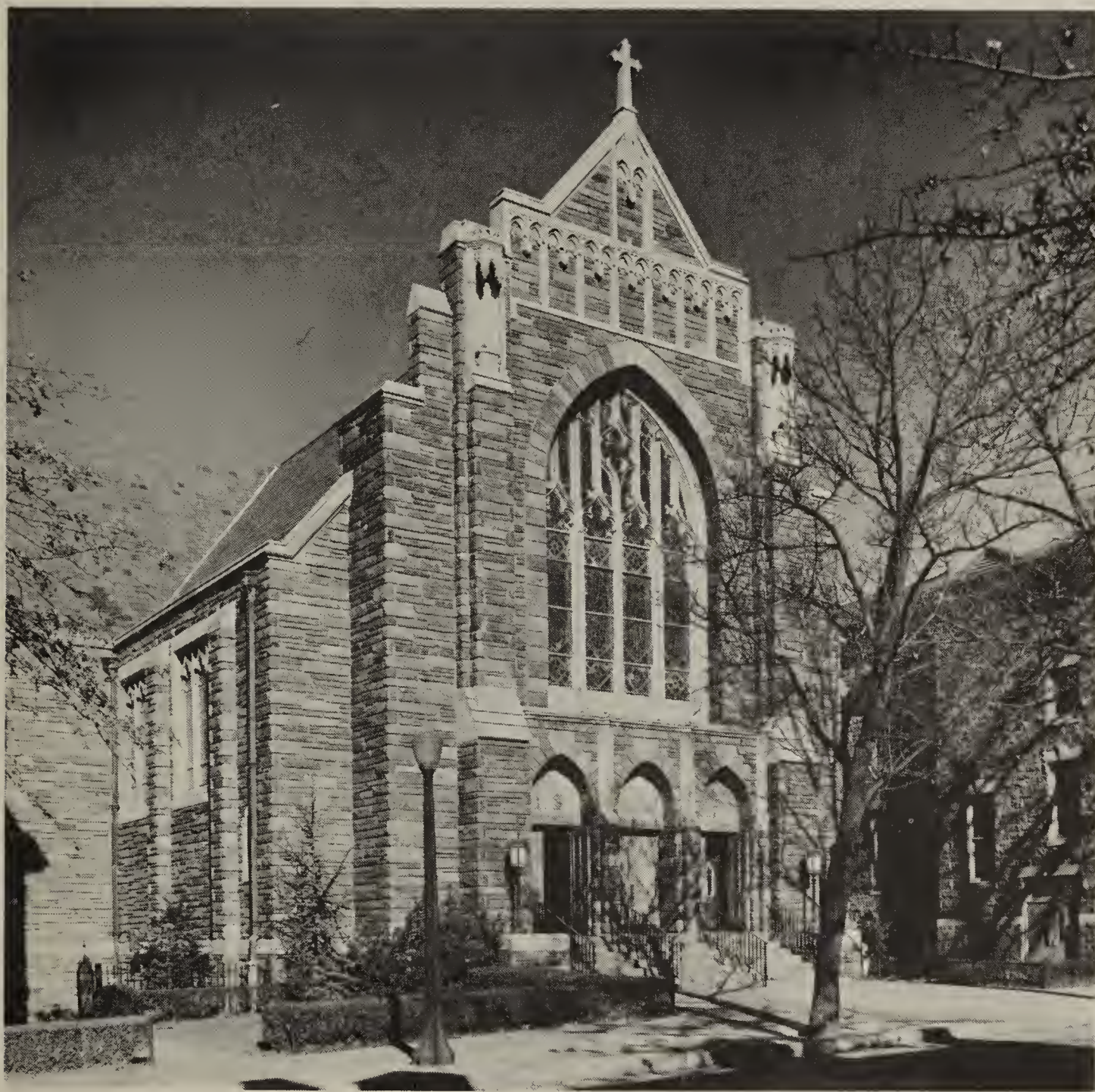
Churches

Since Provincial days churches have played a highly important role in the life of the County. Its citizens have been characterized by a deep desire for the practice of religious faith and for the pursuit of education and culture. These forces have had a major influence on the quality of life in the County. There are now nearly 300 churches in Chester County. Among the early churches were Friends Meetings at Birmingham in 1690, at Goshen and Nottingham in 1701, at Kennett in 1710, and at London Grove in 1714. The Welsh Baptists came to London Britain in 1701; the Great Valley Baptist Church was established in 1711, the Hephzibah Baptist Church was erected in 1793; Goshen Baptist Church was organized in 1827. By 1710 the Presbyterians had a church at Great Valley followed by one at Upper Octorara in 1720, at New London in 1726, and Fagg's Manor in 1730. Churches were organized by Mennonites in East Coventry Township in 1828; by Episcopalians, St. John's in West Caln, in 1729; Roman



Old St. Peter's Church, East Whiteland Township

Catholic, at West Chester, as a Mission 1730, as Christ's Church in 1793, the name being changed to St. Agnes in 1853, celebrating its 175th anniversary under the latter name in 1968. About 1750 the German Lutherans and Reformed Calvinists jointly had a church near today's Zion Lutheran Church south of Spring City. About 1770 they each built a new church. Today's Methodist Church at Grove, three miles north of West Chester, is the oldest Church of this denomination in continuous operation in the County. Started in 1773 it is often designated as "the Methodism in Chester County."



St. Agnes Church

Schools

Despite William Penn's Decree of 1682 that the Governor and Council "shall erect and order all publick schools," education in rural Colonial Pennsylvania began at a low level and developed slowly. A number of the early settlers in Chester County could neither read nor write but they were people of much intelligence and became highly successful in acquiring and operating their farms. The

earliest academies in the County were religious schools to prepare students for the ministry and did little for elementary education. Four of these academies of the 18th century were outstanding—Fagg's Manor Classical School established about 1739 by Rev. Samuel Blair; New London Academy started by Rev. Francis Alison in 1743; Nottingham Academy founded by Rev. Samuel Finley in 1744; Brandywine Academy at Brandywine Manor opened by Rev. Nathan Grier in 1792. The founders and many of the students of these academies played a notable role in the life of their day. Dr. Alison became vice-provost of the University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Finley became president of the College of New Jersey (Princeton). Among New London Academy students Charles Thomson became Secretary of the Continental Congress, Thomas McKean, Governor of Pennsylvania and signer of the Declaration of Independence, along with George Reed and James Smith. The famous Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia was graduated from Nottingham Academy.



Westtown School, Westtown, Chester County, Pa.

A school was started at Birmingham on ground purchased for this purpose in 1756. Its most illustrious teacher was John Forsythe and student Dr. William Darlington. A new building for this school was erected in 1819, the Birmingham Octagonal School House. This building and one at Diamond Rock, Tredyffrin Township, are the only octagonal school buildings left in our County. Their role as school buildings was ended many decades ago. Westtown Boarding School (Coed) opened in 1799. The West Chester Academy opened in 1812 and had an illustrious history. In a sense it was the forerunner of the West Chester Normal School which opened in 1871. Among more than two-score other private schools in the County during the 19th century were (with the dates of their beginnings):

French Creek Boarding School at Kimberton 1817, Unionville Academy 1834, Oxford Female Seminary 1835, and Ercildoun Seminary 1851 (later Darlington's Seminary), Unionville Academy's most noted students were Bayard Taylor and Dr. James P. Wickersham, the first State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Pennsylvania.

Certain of the County's academies received some financial assistance from the State. However, they were not offering public education at the expense of the Commonwealth as specified in the State Constitution of 1790. This concept was greatly accelerated by the Free Public School Act of 1834. The provisions of this law were gradually accepted in our County with the inevitable end of most of the private academies and seminaries. An Act of the State Legislature in 1854 created the office of County Superintendent of Schools. Since this date Chester County has had thirteen men who have served in this role.

The initial report of this office rendered to the Secretary of the Commonwealth in 1855 listed a student enrollment of 15,284 students in 250 buildings. Schools averaged seven months a year. Average monthly salaries for men was \$22.23, and for women \$15.42.

The office of the County Superintendent of Schools was created to expedite compliance with the "Free Public School" Act of 1834, because many counties did not take establishment of public education seriously. It is interesting to note in the reports of County Superintendent W. W. Woodruff during the Civil War years that he says:

"There is still, in a few districts, opposition to some features of the school system, if not to the system itself. Yet the people generally are striving earnestly to secure the best results possible from our common schools, which are open to all who need instruction; proclaiming to all that improvement of mind is nature's legacy and humanity's birthright; and that he is ignorant of his royal lineage who neglects or refuses to lay righteous claim to the divine patrimony."

The record indicates that school buildings, the one-room variety, were being constructed at a cost of \$600 to \$1,000, although one was completed in the borough of West Chester at the cost of \$15,500, which is described as "a fine edifice and a noble testimony to the interest felt in our public schools."

Following the Civil War, high schools began to appear in Chester County, so that at the turn of the century, 664 pupils were enrolled, employing 30 teachers; and in elementary schools, the enrollment was 18,176, taught by 489 teachers. The enrolled public census of 1960 was 16,545 pupils in the high schools, and 24,010 in the elementary schools, making a total enrollment of 40,555 students and 25,537 secondary students, for a grand total of 56,167, taught by 3,013 teachers. Approximately 12,000 children are enrolled in private and parochial schools during the 1967 term. It is quite understandable that Chester County is one of the fastest growing counties within the state and growing more rapidly than any other county in southeastern Pennsylvania.

The County Board of School Directors was organized in 1937; this group is elected by all of the school directors in the county in convention and has contributed greatly to the improvement of education in recent years. The General

Assembly recognized that school districts were too small and, in 1947, provided for the County Board of School Directors to voluntarily develop school district mergers. In 1953, a County Plan for Reorganization of districts was submitted to the State Council of Education and this was further implemented by Act 299, in 1963, which mandated reorganization of school districts according to certain criteria. Chester County now has ten administrative units which have been reorganized and are official school districts. The six school districts within the Paoli Area Administrative unit are still to be reorganized, pending a decision of the courts. It is reasonable to assume that Chester County will have eleven or twelve school districts by 1970. This will be a considerable change from the sixty-nine school districts which existed prior to the reorganization process. The approximately 365 school directors—who once directed school affairs in the county has now been reduced to approximately 100.

One of the excellent programs for which the Chester County Board of School Directors is responsible in the county is a comprehensive special education program including classes for Physically Handicapped, Brain Injured, Visually Handicapped, Emotionally Disturbed, Educable Mentally Retarded and Trainable Mentally Retarded. At the time of this publication, plans are progressing to construct a special education school to house the various exceptionalities. This will prove to be one of the few such facilities within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Beginning with what is now St. Agnes Catholic Parochial School in West Chester in 1871, the enrolled census for 1960 was 5,459 elementary students in the county, and in the only Catholic High School in Chester County, established in 1909 and recently merged into "Bishop Shanahan High School" of West Chester, 532 students. Some of the more prominent private and public education institutions in the county today are the "Pennhurst State Institution," established in 1903 near Spring City, for care and training of mentally deficient children beyond the nursery state; Downingtown Industrial and Agricultural School, founded in 1905 as an inter-denominational school for boys to learn trades and complete high school; the Devereux Foundation, founded in 1912 at Devon, for treatment and education of children and adolescents with special psychiatric and educational problems; the Royer-Greaves School for the Blind, founded at Paoli in 1921; the Malvern Preparatory School, founded at Malvern in 1923, as a college preparatory school for boys, grades IX through XII; the Church Farm School, founded at Glen Loch, on U.S. 30, in 1926, for the training of orphaned boys in agriculture up to the college level; the Villa Maria Academy and Conservatory, founded at Green Tree in 1926 (girls), grades I through XII; the Phelps School, founded at Malvern in 1947 (boys), College Preparatory VII through XII grades, and others equally interesting and noteworthy.

Newspapers

Educational activities were first extended into the field of journalism late in the 18th century. Some of the earlier and better known newspapers and periodi-

cals in the County were in West Chester: The "Gazette," 1794; The "Chester-Delaware Federalist," 1809; The "Village Record," 1818; "The Jeffersonian," 1842; The "Daily Local News," 1872. In Downingtown the newspapers were the "Temperate Zone," 1808, and the "Independent Journal," 1827. In Phoenixville the first newspaper was the "Phoenix Gazette," 1846. Others preceded and followed throughout the County, equally interesting and perhaps as noteworthy. Today throughout the County there are three dailies and nine weeklies being published. At the County Seat, the "Chester County Reporter" was established for legal notices, in 1881. In 1853 the "Chester County Medical Reporter," a quarterly journal was inaugurated by the Chester-Delaware County Medical Societies, at West Chester.

Colleges and Universities

The desires, support and appreciation of Chester Countians for higher education is to be seen in its two colleges and a university, which offer full accredited higher education. Lincoln University, formerly Ashmun Institute, was established by Charter of the Legislature in 1854, to provide liberal arts education for the colored. It was renamed Lincoln University, in 1866, following the



Immaculata College



West Chester State College
Philips Memorial Building, College Administrative Offices, In Snow-Time

assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. This university is located on U.S. 1, east of Oxford, in Lower Oxford Township. Lincoln University now is integrated. Its original buildings date from 1856-1896. Immaculata College was founded in 1908 by the Order of Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as Villa Maria College, and chartered in 1921, as Villa Maria College for women students in Liberal Arts education. Its name was changed to Immaculata College in 1929. It is situated in East Whiteland Township, near Frazer. The West Chester State College was established as West Chester Normal School in 1871, following a merger of the West Chester Academy. The original buildings on the campus date from 1872-1890, beginning with "Old Main Dormitory." By Acts of the legislature, the name was changed in 1927 from Normal School to West Chester State Teachers College, and again changed in 1960 to its present title. A movement at this time is being made to lift its status to a university. This college provides co-ed elementary and secondary teacher curricula in music, health and physical education, and a graduate program which was established in 1959. The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine (New Bolton Center) was established in 1952, was moved to a 300 acre tract, formerly the Pusey property, near Kennett Square in East Marlborough Township on Street Road. Also the Flowers and Cook Observatory of the University of Pennsylvania was established in 1956 on Providence Road in Willistown Township. This purely scientific institution is not open to the public.



Lincoln University

Boy Scout Facilities in Chester County

Chester County Council Inc., Boy Scouts of America, 200 So. Concord Road, West Chester—"Horseshoe Scout Reservation," of approximately 700 acres, on both sides of the Octorara; Oakwood District, Cecil County, Maryland; West Nottingham township, Chester County; and Fulton township in Lancaster County, off U.S. 1, right, two miles west of Rising Sun, Maryland. Containing (1) Scout Camp, (2) Explorer Base and (3) Jambo Camp, open yearly, with an annual attendance of approximately 3,500.

Girl Scout Facilities in Chester County

Freedom Valley Girl Scout Council, Box 321, Valley Forge Rd., Valley Forge—Camp Tweedale, of approximately 100 acres in Lower Oxford Township, established in 1930. Open year round, with an annual attendance of approximately 2500. Off Pennsylvania route 15024 to Pine Grove on Tweed Run at the City of Chester Water Authority Reservoir.

Chester and Delaware Counties Dental Society

The Chester and Delaware Counties Dental Society was established early in 1895. At that time it adopted a Code of Ethics embracing obligations to patients, standard of character, regard for associates, and conservation in advertisements. The nature of the Society is unique in its combination of social and professional activities.

The Newcomen Society in North America

A non-profit educational corporation, with 18,000 members in USA and Canada, for the study and recognition of business, industrial and institutional history and achievement. Established in 1923. Affiliated with The Newcomen Society for the Study of the History of Engineering and Technology and The Royal Society of Arts, at London. Maintains, on grounds of the Society at 412 E. North Ship Road, Exton, Pennsylvania, 19334, Route 15184, The Thomas Newcomen Memorial Library and Museum in Steam and Business History—open to the public, free of charge, during office hours Mon-Fri and on weekends, by appointment. Maintains various Awards in field of business history writing at universities and colleges. Publishes in field of business, industrial and institutional history.

The Chester County Medical Society

An organization of over 220 practicing physicians in Chester which meets monthly in various places throughout the county. It is one of the oldest Medical Societies in the United States, having been founded in 1828. Although autonomous, it maintains close liaison with the Pennsylvania Medical Society and the American Medical Association. In addition to its educational function for the physicians, it serves the public in maintaining lists of physicians by areas, sponsoring immunization drives, answering grievances, etc. It's executive office is in Phoenixville.

Libraries

The burning desire for knowledge and culture by our early ancestors was evidenced in their support of public libraries. Some of the early libraries are Birmingham, 1795, New London, 1806, Farmers of London Grove, 1805, and Windsor, 1866. Among the Public Libraries in efficient operation today are the Atglen, Easttown-Berwyn, Coatesville, Downingtown, Bayard Taylor Memorial-Kennett Square, Oxford, Paoli, Parkesburg, Phoenixville, Spring City, West Grove, and West Chester. College Libraries are Immaculata College-Malvern, Vail Memorial-Lincoln University, and at West Chester State. In 1967 West Chester State College was appointed as a Federal Central Depository Library. The Chester County Historical Society also has an extensive library.

Inns and Taverns

Blending with the history and development of the County, some of the early and better known Inns and Taverns were the Leopard Inn, Tredyffrin Township, 1716; Chrome Inn, East Nottingham, 1715; White Horse Tavern, Willistown Township, 1721; Paoli Inn, Paoli, 1725; Eagle Hotel, Uwchlan Township, 1727; Red Rose Inn, of Rose payment rent fame, near West Grove, on U.S. 1, 1731; Half-Way House Tavern, Chatham, 1741, renamed Chatham for the Earl of Chatham, William Pitt, in 1766; Ship Inn, originally above Downingtown, 1755, later moved to West Whiteland Township at Ship Road, on U.S. 30; King In Arms Inn, at Downingtown, 1761, which later housed the original Post Office in Chester County; Turk's Head Inn, West Chester, 1761; Anvil Inn on U.S. 1, at Longwood, near Kennett Square, 1782; Buck Tavern, at Routes 23 and 100, 1790; Black Horse Tavern, 1794; and many others equally famous and nonetheless interesting. Among the earliest licenses granted within the present limits of the County for the sale of alcohol was that of Thomas Moore, at Downingtown, in 1717.

Post Offices

The earliest Post Office established in Chester County was at Downingtown, 1798, others following were Cochranville, New Garden, New London, Chatham, and Kennett Square respectively. West Chester was established next in 1804. Today there are fifty-six Post Offices in Chester County. Postmasters were appointed by the Postmaster General, until 1849. Since that time, they have held office by Presidential appointment.

Slaves

Before the Swedes and William Penn and the English, the Dutch introduced slavery. Following the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, England secured a monopoly on the slave trade. It predominated in the Welsh Townships of Charlestown, Tredyffrin, East Nantmeal, and Nantmeal, and in those places settled largely by the Scotch-Irish, such as New London, Londonderry, Oxford, and East Nottingham. Very few slaves were to be found elsewhere in the County. Opposition to slavery began with the Friends in 1688, aided by other groups. Pennsylvania was the first state to abolish slavery by Act of Assembly in 1780. Aided by the "Fugitive Slave Law" which was passed by Congress in 1850, Chester Countians keenly sympathized with and aided the runaway slaves as they passed through established routes and stopped at friendly homes. These designated citizens' homes were known as the "Underground Railroad Stations." Among those established in Chester County were the home of Rachel Pierce (now Longwood), and homes in Kennett Square, West Chester, Downingtown, Honey Brook, Unionville, Kimberton, Phoenixville, Ercildoun, and Townships of East Bradford, Newlin and Willistown.



National Bank of Chester County

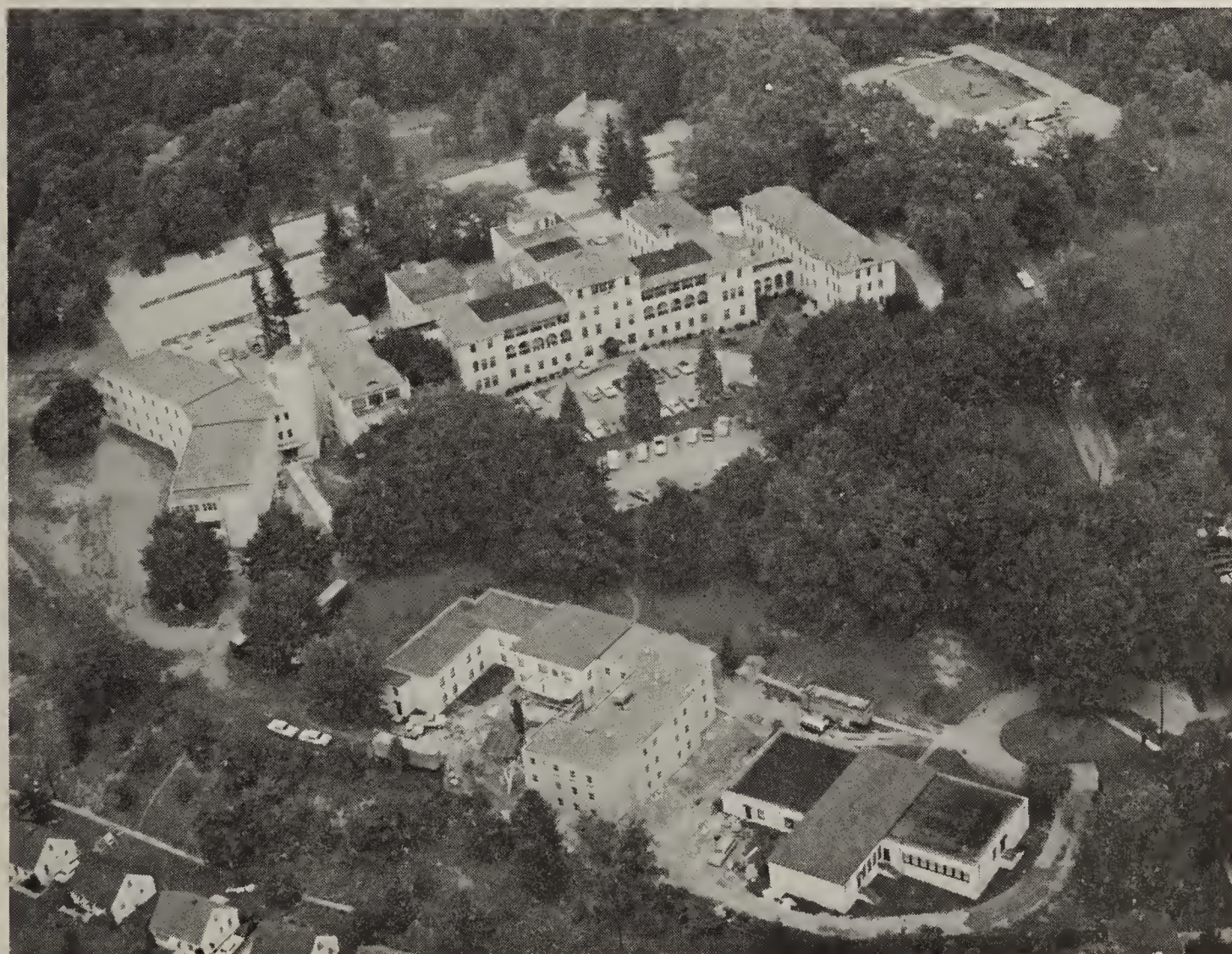
Banking

From Provincial times to the present, banking has contributed a major role in our industrial and economic life. Banking records disclose that the "Bank of Chester County" (now the National Bank of Chester County and Trust Company) was the pioneer bank of Chester County, having been established by Act of Legislature, in 1814. It opened for business in 1814 on the second floor of the then County Records Building at the Northwest corner of High and Market Streets. It moved across the street in 1818 to the building in front of the Court House where it remained until 1837 when the bank moved next door to its present site. The bank building used from 1818 to 1837 was then used as a residence by an official of the Bank until 1883. From that time until 1958 it was leased for public offices. Again, in 1959 it was taken over by the Bank, this time to be its Trust Department. Following the passage of the National Banking Act, the bank became a National Bank in 1864, as the "National Bank of Chester County." Some of the earlier banks following this first bank were: National Bank of Chester Valley at Coatesville, 1857; National Bank of Oxford, at Oxford, 1858; National Bank of Downingtown, at Downingtown, 1861; The

First National Bank of West Chester, at the County Seat, was the first bank in the County granted a National bank charter 1863, and opened for business in 1864. The only mutual savings bank in the county is the Dime Savings Bank of Chester County, established in 1890. It is one of seven within the State. From this beginning Chester County now has thirteen excellent banking institutions with 39 banking offices. Ten of these offices are directed from outside the County. These many banking facilities render invaluable assistance to the citizens of Chester County, and are available to serve diversified new home and industrial expansion within the County.

Hospitals

From Provincial days to the Revolution, humane care and treatment of the ill was provided largely in private homes. After the Battle of Brandywine, hospitals became necessary and were provided, for the sick and wounded, by commandeering churches, meeting houses, taverns, schools and barns. At West Chester were the Turk's Head Tavern, the old school house at the intersection of the Valley and Brandywine Roads, and the Birmingham Meeting House for the Battle of Brandywine, for both American and British casualties. There was also the Uwchlan Friends Meeting House, at Lionville, for the wounded of the Paoli Massacre. Others were the barns of Joseph Downing at Downingtown, Herman Prizer's, in East Coventry Township; the churches of the German Reformed in East Vincent Township; and the Zion Lutheran, in East Pikeland Township. In



Chester County Hospital

addition, commodious and well arranged army hospitals were established at Yellow Springs (Chester Springs) in Pikeland Township for the Continental Army patients from Valley Forge. These hospitals were at the site of the mineral springs, then a famous resort since 1750. While the springs still exist, they are little known today. Also used was the encampment hospital known as the Mansion House, at Valley Forge. From this background, follows the development of our general hospitals in the County at present. Chester County is proud of its humane record of hospital care. We have the Atkinson Memorial, established in 1932, and the Coatesville Hospital in Coatesville, established in 1899; the Chester County Hospital at West Chester, established in 1893; and the Memorial of Chester County, originally Homeopathic, established in 1912, name changed in 1945, at West Chester, was again changed when facilities moved to Paoli in 1968, now known as Paoli Memorial Hospital; the Community Hospital established in 1925, at West Grove and succeeded by Community Memorial Hospital, near Jennersville, in 1959, on U.S. 1; in Phoenixville, the Phoenixville Hospital, established in 1893. Memorial Hospital of Chester County is moving into entirely new facilities in Paoli in 1968. Other hospitals are the Valley Forge Army Hospital, established in 1943 near Phoenixville, in Charlestown Township and the Veterans Administration Hospital, established in 1930, at Coatesville, for treatment of neurological and psychiatric disorders of war-time veterans. The latter two institutions are under Federal control. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania maintains the Embreeville State Hospital, established in 1941, at Embreeville, on Strasburg Road, in West Bradford



Contour strips and farm pond on Tornquist farm.

Township, for mental disorders, and the Pennhurst School, established in 1907, near Spring City, in East Vincent Township off Pennsylvania Route 183, for the care and training of mentally defective children beyond nursery age.

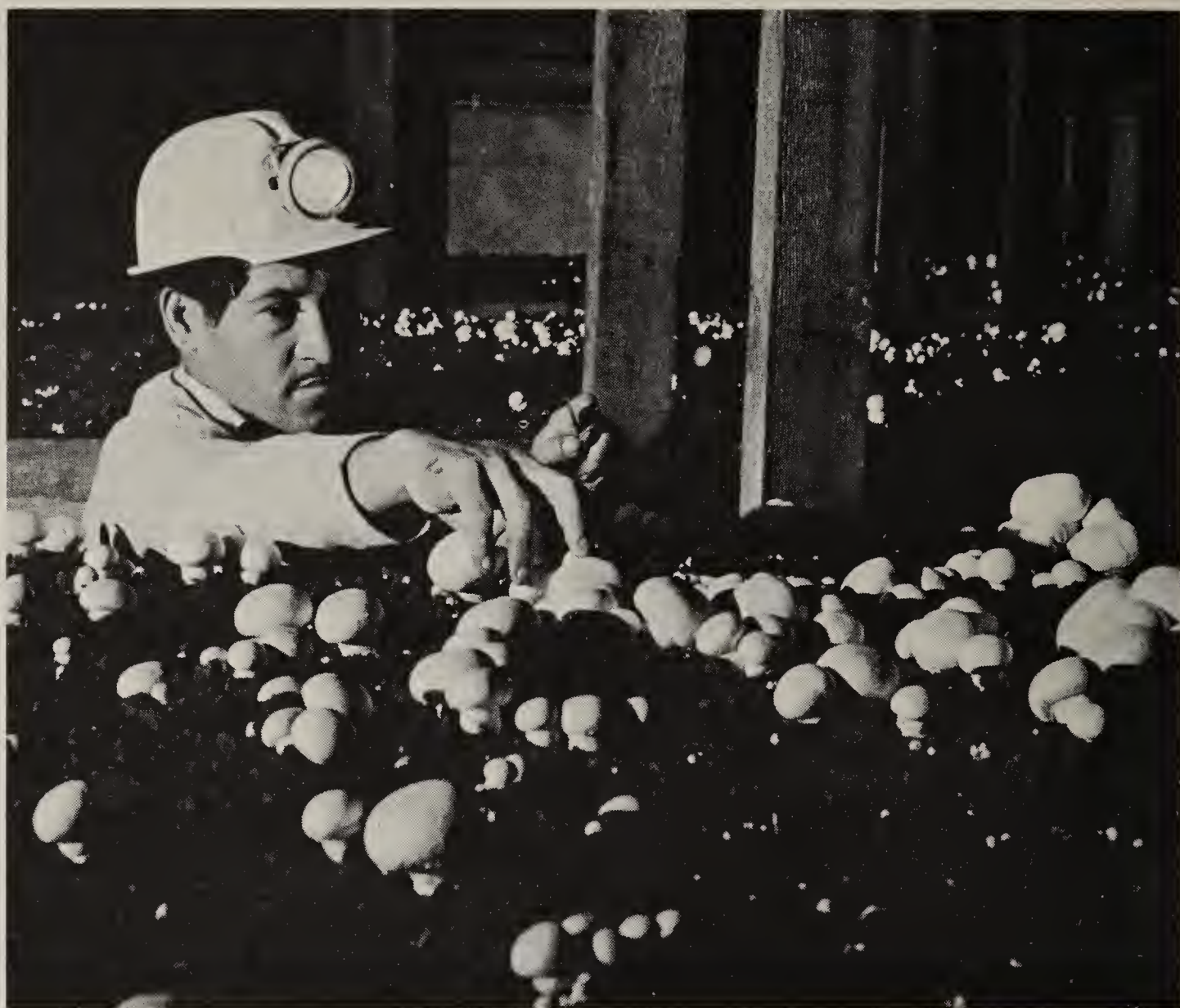
Agriculture

It was the farmer who elevated the County above the conditions in which it had been held by the Indians. From the 1680's until after the Centennial, the rest of Chester County had been chiefly of an agricultural and dairy economy. Today the principal agriculture products are cattle, corn, milk, truck farming, floriculture, mushroom, and poultry. Along with agriculture, some of the early nurseries were: Cherry Hill (Hoopes Bros. and Thomas, established in 1851), at West Chester, as well as the Morris Nurseries, established in 1851; Jason Mahan Nurseries, established in 1836, at Sadsbury; Dingee and Conard Company—As a nursery, was founded and operated by Charles Dingee in 1850, to about 1865, when the business was identified as Dingee and Conard, later chartered Dingee and Conard Company in 1871. Shortly thereafter, the company converted to roses and continued until 1938. Were the first to sell and ship roses by mail, continuing until 1938. The firm was sold to the West Grove Greenhouses with operations devoted to a cut flower business—shipping to the wholesale flower markets. Conard-Pyle Company (Star Rose Growers)—Founded and operated from 1892 to 1897 by Alfred Conard, formerly of Dingee and Conard Company. Incorporated at West Grove in 1897 as Conard and Jones Company until 1923, when the name was changed to Conard-Pyle Company. Blending with the agriculture program, are the Buck and Doe Run Valley Farms established in West Marlborough Township, Chester County in 1946, along Pennsylvania Route 82 between Unionville and Coatesville. These farms, comprising 10,000 acres owned and 2,000 acres leased, are maintained by the King Ranch of Kingsville, Texas, as grazing land. Annually, about May 1, each year, 6,000 steers are shipped from Texas, which are grazed on grass for six months, and then sold for slaughtering, serving the large consuming centers on the Eastern Seaboard. Those steers not sold are placed into feed lots for further fattening on corn to produce a top meat product. Color too is blended into the program by the presence of the southwestern plains cowboys working the herds.

Mushroom Industry

Based on the value of the crop, the investment in property and equipment, and the size of the labor force, the mushroom industry is one of the most important economic assets of Chester County.

In 1885 William Swayne and Harry Hicks, florists of Kennett Square, began growing mushrooms beneath the benches in their greenhouses and later erected houses for the specific purpose of producing mushrooms. Others followed their example and Chester County became the mushroom growing center of the United States.



Harvesting matured mushrooms

Of some 600 growers in Pennsylvania, most are located in Chester County which now produces more than 80 million pounds of mushrooms annually.

J. Bancroft Swayne carried on the work started by his father and the fourth generation of the family is now active in the company which has added spawn making and canning to its operations.

The late Edward H. Jacob of West Chester was the founder of a mushroom growing and canning business which later became a part of the Grovery Store Products Company. The Brandywine Mushroom Corporation, also of West Chester, developed from an early partnership and is now a subsidiary of the Borden Company.

In 1931 the Mushroom Growers Cooperative Association was formed and under the leadership of the late Walter M. Maule, developed a spawn and mushroom supply business and a canning operation. A number of other canneries are also located in the Kennett Square and Avondale areas.

In the early years of the industry, spawn had to be imported from abroad, primarily from England. The late Louis F. Lambert of Coatesville is credited with developing the first spawn production in this Country.

The American Mushroom Institute is a membership organization which was formed in 1955 to promote the interests of the mushroom producers. It sup-



Bed of mushrooms in local Chester County Mushroom House

ports research work at Pennsylvania State University and the University of Delaware and has engaged in an extensive public relations program to interest consumers in using mushrooms.

The industry is located primarily in the southern part of the county and is concentrated largely in the Kennett Square, Toughkenamon and Avondale areas.

Agriculture Census and Economic Information

The Agricultural Census for 1964 by the U.S. Department of Commerce discloses that there are 2339 farms in Chester County, of which 1845 are commercial farms. Total land area in Chester County is 486,400 acres of which approximately 55% is in farms, or 269,552 acres. The average size of farms is 115.2 acres. The average value per farm for land and buildings is \$70,597. Farm operators owning their own farms number 1533. The average age of farm operators is 50.4 years. The number of farm operators over 65 years of age is 402. It is estimated that 815 farm operators are engaged in at least some off-farm work for part of their income.

The Pennsylvania Crops and Livestock Annual Summary for 1966 reports an estimated cash receipts from the sale of all agricultural products and government payments for Chester County of \$51,579,000 of which less than 1% (\$449,000)

is government payments. This gross income ranks second in the State, exceeded only by Lancaster County. The largest source of income is from horticultural specialties which includes mushrooms, commercial florist crops and nursery crops. Second largest source of income is from dairy products. Other major sources of farm income are from the sale of meat animals and poultry products, general farm crops, vegetables and fruits.

Farm Organizations

Some of the early farm organizations were the Agricultural Society of Chester County 1820; the Chester County Horticultural Society 1848 to 1869, then reestablished by Charter in 1939; the Oxford Agriculture Society 1870; the Brandywine Farmers Club 1879. Today there are also the Chester-Delaware Pomona Grange; Farm Loan Association; Chester-Delaware Ayrshire Breeders Association; Chester County Guernsey Breeders Association; Chester County Holstein Breeders Association; Chester County Jersey Cattle Club; Chester-Delaware Fruit Growers Association; Producer's Co-operative Exchange; Mushroom Growers Co-operative Association; Chester County Farmers Association; Chester-Delaware Farm Bureau Co-operative Association; Chester County Flower Growers Association; Chester County Beekeepers Association; Chester-Delaware County Poultry Association; American Mushroom Institute and the Middle Atlantic Carnation Growers.

Cooperative Extension Association

The Cooperative Extension Service is a partnership undertaking in adult and youth education between the Pennsylvania State University and the United States Department of Agriculture, Chester County Government and local citizens. From its beginning, as stated in the founding legislation of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, its major function is:

"To aid in diffusing among the people of the United States useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture and home economics, and to encourage application of the same."

Cooperative extension service programs throughout the United States are intimately tied with the functions and responsibilities of the Land Grant University system. Thus, in Pennsylvania all extension workers—county extension workers and State subject matter specialists—are staff employees of the Pennsylvania State University. In Chester County the University has assigned 3 Agricultural Agents and 2 Extension Home Economists to work with local people in developing the Chester County Cooperative Extension Service program. At all times the widespread participation of local people is stressed in both planning and conducting the local program.

Seven broad areas of program emphasis constitute the core of Extension's informal educational activities:

Efficiency in Agricultural Production

Efficiency in Marketing, Distribution, and Utilization

Conservation, Development, and Wise Use of Natural Resources

Home and Family Living

Youth Development

Community and Resource Development

Public Affairs Education

All people in Chester County may take advantage of the information offered by the Cooperative Extension Service. The program is not restricted solely to the interests and problems of adults, nor is it restricted to work with farm families and rural groups. It works with people in rural, suburban, and urban settings. For more than half a century the Extension Service has functioned as the sponsor of 4-H Club work, which is the youth development phase of the extension program for the 9-19 year olds.

In all types of Extension activities, the role of the volunteer local leader is a significant one. This role may be one of securing the necessary local funds from county government officials to operate the program; it may be the role of assisting the extension workers in identifying problems and formulating extension teaching programs; or it may be the role of contributing personal time and talents to others by using information and program aids made available by the Cooperative Extension Service for teaching subject matter to groups in the community.

Soil Conservation Service

The Soil Conservation Service of the USDA is a technical agency which cooperates with the Chester County Soil and Water Conservation District. The District was established by resolution of the County Commissioners in 1948 and is administered by a board of seven directors. These directors are all residents of the county including the County Commissioner member.

The purpose of the District is to coordinate the work of agencies and organizations active in the field of Soil and Water Conservation. These agencies include the USDA Soil Conservation Service, Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters, Pennsylvania Game and Fish Commissions, Department of Highways, Vocational Agriculture Departments, Brandywine Valley Association, and the Agricultural Extension Association.

The main responsibility of the Soil Conservation Service is providing technical assistance to landowners in solving soil and water conservation problems. This is done by providing engineering surveys, designs, and layout, and supervision of installation.

These services are provided at no cost to the landowner. The only requirement is that the landowner be a cooperator with the Chester County Soil and Water Conservation District. Soil Conservation Service technicians then assist the landowner in preparing a conservation plan, and set forth conservation practices and measures needed to maintain or increase production and protect the soil for years to come.

Since the establishment of the District, the Soil Conservation Service has aided landowners in establishing many conservation practices, including 280 farm

ponds, 67 miles of diversion terraces, 59 miles of tile drainage and 30,300 acres of contour stripcropping.

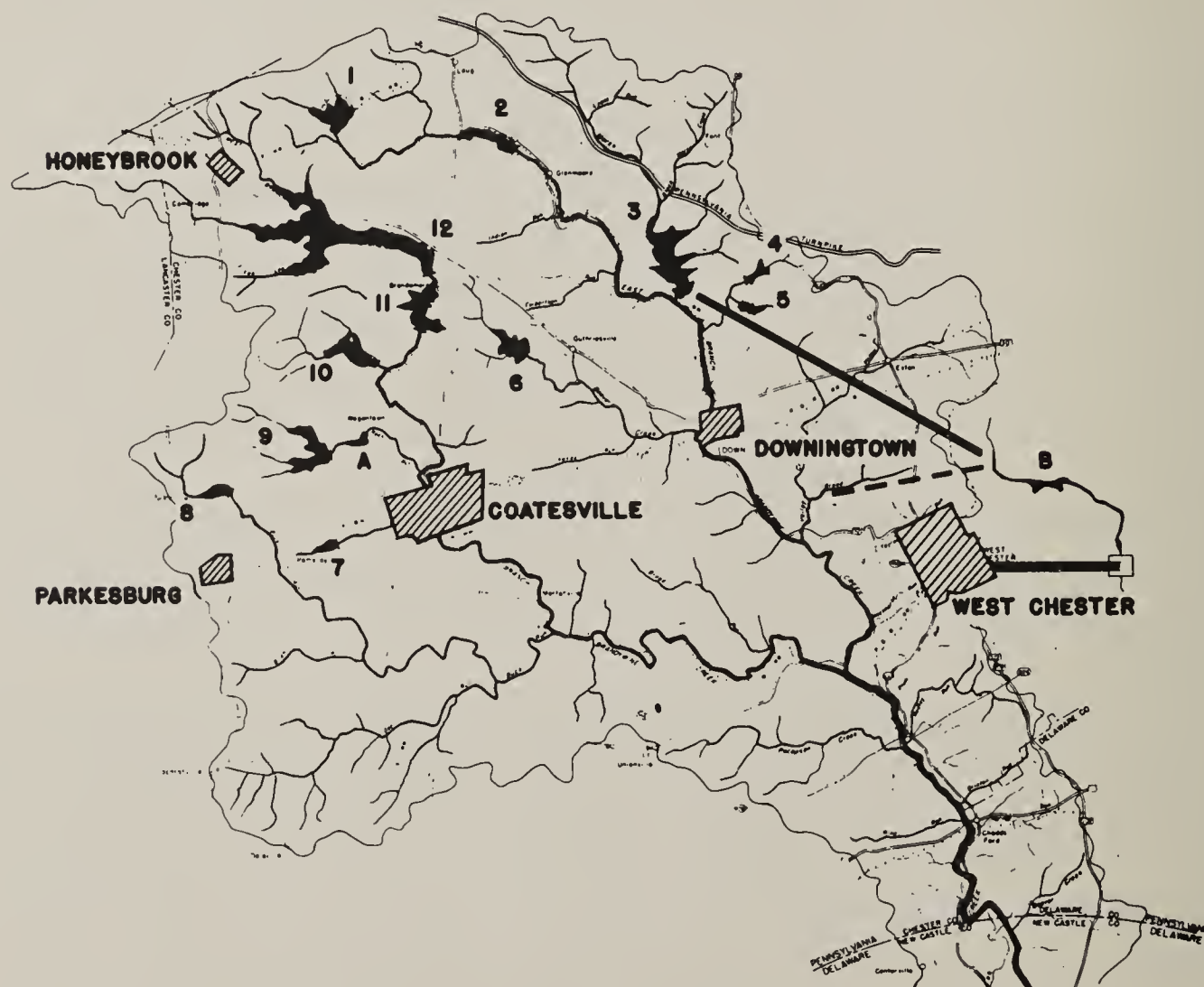
In addition to these accomplishments, the Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the Pennsylvania State University completed and published the Chester County Soil Survey in 1963. This report describes and locates each soil type present in Chester County. The information contained in this report is being used by township supervisors and zoning boards to determine correct land utilization within Chester County.

The Soil Conservation Service also administers the Small Watershed and Flood Prevention Program in Pennsylvania. At present, 44 watersheds in Pennsylvania are under study. Three of these watersheds have been completed to date. The Brandywine Watershed in Chester County is presently under study and construction is scheduled to start in the near future.

The past 20 years have been challenging to the Soil Conservation Service and the next 20 will be more so. The Service is expecting an increased demand for basic natural resources data over large areas of Chester County. This data will be used by township supervisors and planners to guide urban and agricultural development in an orderly and practical manner.

The Service is also expecting an increased demand for assistance in erosion control and water control measures on large areas undergoing urban development in Chester County.

Whatever the future may hold, the staff of the Soil Conservation Service in



Proposed Water Shed Project

Chester County is ready to aid any individual, group, or agency in dealing with problems involving soil and water conservation.

Brandywine Valley Association, Inc.

The Brandywine Valley Association was incorporated in 1945 as a nonprofit conservation organization by a group of public spirited citizens. It is composed of approximately 2,000 dues paying members. The thirty member board directing the Association is assisted by a staff of an Executive Vice-President, Executive Secretary and an Accountant. The office is located in the Farmers and Mechanics Building, West Chester, Pennsylvania. The Association's basic purposes are to restore, conserve and improve natural resources and to eliminate pollution from towns and industries by proper treatment of wastes. BVA also provided leadership in developing the long range water supply, flood control and recreation program for the Brandywine Valley. It urges the residents in the 330 square mile watershed area to make the wisest use of all their natural resources. The Association is financed by membership dues.

Red Clay Valley Association, Inc.

The Red Clay Valley Association was organized in 1952 under procedures similar to those of the Brandywine Valley Association. The Association has a membership of more than 400 and is directed by a board composed of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, assisted by an Executive Director. The office address is 406 Farmers and Mechanics Building, West Chester, Pennsylvania. The Brandywine Valley Association, by contract agreement, supplies staff and office services for the Association. Its purposes are to eliminate pollution, to encourage conservation practices, to provide information on the water resources of the valley and to make available conservation education materials to all schools in the watershed. In cooperation with the U. S. Geological Survey, a proven underground water supply has been established in the district. The Red Clay Creek drains 50 square miles of land in the area from Unionville, Pennsylvania, through Kennett Square to Stanton, Delaware.

The White Clay Watershed Association, Inc.

The White Clay Watershed Association is a nonprofit organization devoted to promoting the development and preservation of the natural resources of the White Clay valley so that all residents will have a better place in which to live, work and play.

The Association proposes to protect economic and aesthetic values, to insure the quality and quantity of water, to conserve water, soil, woodland, open space, and wildlife, to develop outdoor recreational facilities and to aid in general community improvement.

Financed by contributions and manned by volunteers, this three-year-old organization has supported the Mason Dixon Project and has endeavored to keep its members and the general public informed on matters affecting the area, particularly plans for the proposed White Clay Reservoir.

The members meet annually in the fall and the Board of Directors, comprised of representatives from all townships and boroughs in the Pennsylvania watershed, at the discretion of the president, currently William Di Filippo of Avondale.

Annual dues are \$2.00 per person, \$3.00 per family. For further information, contact the secretary, Mrs. Richard Cramer, South Bank Road, Landenberg, Penna., Telephone 274-8131.

Green Valleys Association

The office of this association is located at Birchrunville, Pa. in the West Vincent Township Building on Flowing Springs Road. The office phone is 827-7843. The objective is to strive for better conservation of all the natural resources in the area covered by the following watersheds: French Creek, Pickering Creek, Pigeon Creek, and Stoney Run, which are all tributaries of the Schuylkill River. Green Valleys Association is a nonprofit educational organization supported by dues and contributions of its members. A Board of Directors, officers, and an executive director formulate and carry out the policies of the organization. Here you may obtain information about conservation education in the schools, data about stream water quality, and facts about comprehensive land use planning.

Elk Valleys Association, Inc.

Elk Valleys Association, Inc., was chartered in Chester County in Nov. 1964 as a non-profit corporation. It's aim is to promote the restoration and conservation of the natural resources of the watershed of the Big Elk Creek and the Little Elk Creek, in Pennsylvania and Maryland. Address EVA, Box 62, Lincoln University Pa. 19352.

Longwood Gardens

Longwood Gardens is one of the most important horticultural show places in the country. It is located at The Anvil, east of Kennett Square in East Marlborough Township, at the intersection of Pennsylvania Route 52 and U.S. 1. Its water gardens, greenhouses, arboretum fountain displays, stately conservatories, with its vast pipe organ (one of the largest ever built) are renowned among beauty lovers nationally. The gardens are operated by the Longwood Foundation, a non-profit philanthropic organization created by Pierre S. duPont, in 1937. By terms of its Charter and stipulation in Mr. duPont's will, the founda-



Fountain Garden and Conservatory, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pa.



Star Rose Gardens

tion is charged with the care, perpetuation, and improvements of the Gardens for charitable and public enjoyment. The Gardens are open every day of the year without charge. Since first opened in 1921, more than ten million visitors have seen the Gardens, and the attendance now totals more than 900,000 annually. Longwood is rich in historical significance. It is part of a plot conveyed to George Peirce, in 1700, by William Penn. The Battle of Brandywine was fought within gunshot of the present Gardens. The poet-novelist Bayard Taylor, lived nearby; in fact "Longwood," a narrow wooded strip on the premises, figures in his celebrated novel, "The Story of Kennett." The original brick dwelling, later the residence of Mr. and Mrs. duPont, dates from 1730. On the property was an "underground railway" station stop and a gathering point for run-away slaves. The 1,000 acre plot containing many species of flowers, shrubs, plants, and trees from all parts of the world, as well as being a bird sanctuary, has been transformed by Mr. duPont into one of the best known and best loved gardens and centers of culture in the world.

Swiss Pines Park—Bartschi Foundation

This foundation was founded of recent date as a non-profit organization to promote educational, scientific, research, charitable, and literary activities in the fields of horticulture, ornithology, and conservation for the general public recreation. The Foundation has the responsibility to establish, maintain, operate and develop a public park known as "Swiss Pines." It is located on Pennsylvania Route 15049, between Devault and Charlestown, in Charlestown Township,



Swiss Pines Park

north of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. It is presently concentrating on creating and restoring slender five needle Swiss pines, brought from world travels by William H. Llewellyn back in the early twenties, and in re-arranging the Japanese Gardens of stone lions, toads, lanterns, and buddhas over a four acre site. Eventually groups of native and foreign shrubs will flourish over nearly fifteen acres, some landscaped as gardens, other retained in their natural habits for wild life, with 3,000 red and white pines, spruce, and larch in the plantation. The other 200 acres will grow wild with woods, streams, gardens, fields, and meadows. It is open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Conducted educational tours by appointment. The sanctuary is operated by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Primitive Hall Foundation

This Foundation is a tax-exempt organization established on December 8, 1960. The site, including the orchard on the grounds of Primitive Hall Foundation, is open to the public and consists of approximately 25 acres in West Marlborough Township on Pennsylvania Route 841 immediately South of the intersection with 842. The Foundation's purposes include restoration of the brick mansion (Primitive Hall) to its original condition, eventually to become a library and museum, and the creation of a recreation area which now includes facilities of picnic tables, charcoal braziers, running water, sanitation and parking areas. The Foundation has other appropriate charitable and educational purposes in addition to the above.

Primitive Hall built in 1738 has been carefully and authentically restored, the headquarters of the Library is in a stone building below Primitive Hall and South of the picnic grounds. This has been used by the public since early in 1961.

The Foundation also owns an additional tract of approximately 25 acres to the East of these facilities which is under the surveillance of the Chester County Council of the Boy Scouts of America and which has been in continuous use since June 24, 1964.

Sharp's Woods Reserve

This reserve of over 15 acres of woodland and Darby Creek running through a tall growth of oak, beech, and other deciduous trees, was acquired in 1959, from the Estate of Mary B. S. Morris, through the interest of Miss Ellenor Morris, by the Philadelphia Conservationist. The reserve is situated in Easttown Township, bounded by Darby Road, Leopard Road and one mile south of Sugartown Road. Its purposes are for the preservation of a natural park area, and for the development of nature education, nature trails, wild life, plant survey, property and habitat.

Chester County Art Association

Christian Brinton and N. C. Wyeth, inspired by William Palmer Lear who organized the first show of local artists ever held in West Chester, founded the Chester County Art Association in 1931. It was incorporated in 1933 in West Chester as a non-profit corporation. Its purposes are to lawfully further the promotion and cultivation of the fine and applied arts and art appreciation. The Art Center, located on North Bradford Ave. at Gay Street, opened in 1953. The building includes a large gallery where continually changing art exhibitions from September to June are free to the public.

CCAA has drawing and painting classes for adults and children, classes in sculpture, ceramics and pottery, creative dance and a choral group. The faculty is highly qualified. The tuition fees are modest.

The membership of approximately 700 includes artists, patrons of the arts, craftsmen, and laymen interested in maintaining a climate of cultural activity and appreciation of the arts in the Chester County area.

Native Sons and Daughters who
have achieved National Recognition

Smedley D. Butler	1881-1940	Major General, Marine Corps
William Darlington, M.D.	1782-1863	Physician, Scientist, Banker
Rev. John Miller Dickey	1806-1878	Founder of Lincoln University
John Fritz	1822-1913	Pioneer Iron Manufacturer
Isaac Hayes, M.D.	1832-1881	Surgeon, Author, Arctic Explorer
Rebecca Lukens	1794-1854	Woman Iron Master
Humphrey Marshall	1722-1801	Botanist, Author
Thomas McKean	1734-1817	Signer of the Declaration of Independence, Governor of Penna.
Dr. George Morris Philips	1851-1920	Educator, Principal West Chester Normal School
Herbert J. Pennock	1894-1948	Baseball Pitcher and Manager
Samuel W. Pennypacker	1843-1916	Author, Historian, Governor of Pennsylvania
Anna Preston, M.D.	1813-1872	Pioneer Woman Physician
Dr. Evan T. Pugh	1828-1864	Educator—Father of Public School Laws in Penna.
Thomas Buchanan Read	1822-1872	Poet, Painter, Sculptor
Dr. Isaac Sharpless	1828-1920	Educator, President Haverford College
Mark Sullivan	1874-1952	Historian, Columnist
William Marshall Swayne	1828-1918	Sculptor
Bayard Taylor	1825-1878	Poet, Diplomat, Traveler
Anthony Wayne	1745-1796	General, Revolutionary War
Dr. James P. Wickersham	1825-1891	Educator



Chester County Day

Chester County's natural charms have been proverbial since the days of Penn: abundant streams, fertile valleys, rock and mineral-laden hills with a great variety of trees and a wealth of plants and shrubs. From the rugged Welsh Mountains across the Great Valley to the gently rolling cattle country of the southwestern area, Chester County's remarkably varied topography resembles an old time quilt with the beloved Brandywine meandering through patches of historic yesterdays and proud todays while "sewing the fields and woods together with its silver thread." Such an area with plentiful building materials attracted many well-to-do early settlers whose stone and brick houses—simple, sturdy and beautiful—are still landmarks along the great roads that crossed old Chester County. A great deal of history "happened" in this part of Penn's "green countrie" and Chester Countians, wisely realizing the importance of the past, have made this history an integral part of their lives. With a heritage so deeply rooted and revered, it is not at all surprising that one of America's largest "Open House" days should have developed here. Since 1936, on the first Saturday in October, public spirited owners of old and historic homes have welcomed thousands of guests for the annual tour called Chester County Day. At first the guests were local residents only, but attendance has spiralled to last year's all-time high of over four thousand persons representing twenty-two states. Historic landmarks form the background for the sixty or so places visited each year as the Day explores different areas of the County. Since its inception, this completely volunteer project, the work of some five hundred women annually, has raised over \$200,000.00 for charity. The fascinating story of Chester County now reaches the entire nation through the publications of this project which have won two Freedom's Foundation Awards and a George Washington Honor Medal for "outstanding achievement in helping to bring about a better understanding of the American way of Life." Chester County Day, Box 1, West Chester, Pa. for information or free 16-page newspaper mailed late August.

BACKGROUND OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Court House

The first Court of record was held in Upland by the Justices of the Peace in September 1681. In a reference to this Court, dated February 1682, Upland is designated as Chester. The first Legislative Assembly of the Province was held here in December 1682. William Penn presided at the Court held in Chester in June 1683. By 1724 a County Court House had been erected in Chester.

As Chester was at the extreme eastern border of the County residents living at a distance found it very inconvenient to travel here to transact business or attend court. This led to a movement to relocate the county seat to a more central location. By 1780 this agitation led to an Act of the Assembly authorizing the erection of a new Court House and Prison at a more central location. Colonel John Hannum, of Goshen Township, sought to have the new County seat in the vicinity of Turk's Head Tavern, today's West Chester. Realizing the loss of income



New County Office Building

which would occur, tavern keepers of Chester vigorously opposed the moving of the county seat. Indeed, after the new buildings were partly erected they organized an armed rabble and started for the Turk’s Head to demolish the buildings. Fortunately, this misdirected effort fizzled out before any damage was done or any fighting took place. However, it caused much excitement on the part of the residents of Goshen Township who prepared to defend the partly constructed Court House and Prison. After several delays these buildings were completed. Prisoners were moved from the old jail in Chester to the new prison at Turk’s Head on September 25, 1786. The first session of court was held in the new Court House on November 28, 1786.

Although the efforts of unhappy people in Chester failed to block the relocation of the county seat, unrest persisted until Delaware County was separated from Chester County in 1789. The county seat of Delaware County was at Chester until 1851 at which time it was moved to Media.

In 1791 a county records building was erected at the northwest corner of High and Market Streets in West Chester near the Court House and Prison. The growing population of Chester County soon made more adequate county buildings a necessity. The oldest part of today’s Court House was built in 1847. At that time the town clock, then ten years old, was moved from the old Court House to its present location. The southwest part of the present Court House was erected in 1892, the Orphans Court addition in 1955, and the dignified North Wing in 1966.

From the original three counties Pennsylvania has been divided into sixty-seven counties. The youngest of these, Lackawanna County, was established in 1878.

The Boundaries of our present County are—on the South by the States of Delaware and Maryland; on the East by Delaware County; on the North by Montgomery County, erected in 1784; on the Northwest by Berks County, erected in 1752; and on the West by Lancaster County, erected in 1729.

The Area of the County is forty-five miles in length, thirty miles wide, and seven hundred sixty square miles, or 486,400 acres. The approximate land use today in acres and percentage—

	Acres	Percent
Agricultural	285,400	59.0
Industrial	3,260	.6
Residential	39,840	6.7
Vacant Land, Woods & Parks	159,900	32.5

Chester County has a total of seventy-three sub-divisions; fifty-six, second class townships; one first class township; fifteen boroughs, and one city. Chester County is a Fourth Class County, determined by population as provided by the State Legislature. There are nine other fourth class counties in the State, namely: Beaver, Cambria, Dauphin, Fayette, Lehigh, Northampton, Schuylkill, Washington and York. Counties of this class have a population of from 150,000 to 250,000.

The Federal Census of Chester County
for Each 10 Years From 1790–1980

1790	29,937
1800	32,093
1810	39,569
1820	44,451
1830	50,910
1840	57,545
1850	66,438
1860	74,578
1870	77,805
1880	83,481
1890	89,377
1900	90,695
1910	109,213
1920	115,120
1930	126,629
1940	135,626
1950	159,141
1960	210,608
* 1970	297,500
* 1980	425,400

*Estimated

TOWNSHIPS				TOWNSHIPS			
CREATED	DATE	1960	1970*	CREATED	DATE	1960	1970*
Birmingham	1684	453	1900	West Fallowfield	1743	1425	1700
East Bradford	*1705	1713	3700	Franklin	1852	817	1300
West Bradford	1731	1894	3100	East Goshen	*1704	1694	4300
East Brandywine	*1790	1618	2400	West Goshen	1817	8214	2,400
West Brandywine	1844	1675	2500	Highland	1853	1029	1300
Caln	1702	6685	7500	Honeybrook	1789	1584	2100
East Caln	*1728	758	1600	Kennett	1805	3026	3800
West Caln	1744	2140	2900	London Britain	1725	686	1000
Charlestown	1737	1931	3300	Londonderry	1734	718	1300
North Coventry	1841	4367	6100	London Grove	1723	2734	3500
East Coventry	*1718	2183	1900	East Marlborough	*1704	2417	3700
South Coventry	1841	1212	3400	West Marlborough	1730	901	1300
Easttown	1704	6907	11,700	East Nantmeal	*1739	730	1000
Elk	1857	593	700	West Nantmeal	1740	968	2000
East Fallowfield	*1714	2745	3200	New Garden	1700	3718	4500

* Estimated

cont.

New London	1704	845	1200	Schuylkill	1826	3461	5000
Newlin	1724	1477	1800	Thornbury	1687	746	1600
East Nottingham	*1702	2298	2600	Tredyffrin	1706	16004	26,100
West Nottingham	1715	1137	1300	Uwchlan	*1712	995	4200
Lower Oxford	1797	2007	2900	Upper Uwchlan	1858	909	1600
Upper Oxford	*1754	997	1300	Valley	1852	3101	3700
Penn	1817	1097	1600	East Vincent	1832	5453	6200
Pennsbury	1770	936	1900	West Vincent	1832	1431	1700
East Pikeland	1838	2817	3900	Wallace	1852	1065	1500
West Pikeland	1849	782	2100	Warwick	1842	1436	1700
Pocopson	1849	1315	2200	Westtown	1685	1947	4300
Sadsbury	*1717	2066	2500	East Whiteland	*1704	5078	9700
West Sadsbury	1878	1102	1500	West Whiteland	1715	4412	6800

Date indicates formation of the township. Following dates indicate division of the original township.

* Estimated

BOROUGHS				BOROUGHS			
INCORPORATED	DATE	1960	1970*	INCORPORATED	DATE	1960	1970*
Atglen	1875	721	1100	Malvern	1889	2268	4100
Avondale	1894	1016	1500	Modena	1921	859	1100
Coatesville	1867	see	city	Oxford	1833	3376	4100
South Coatesville	1921	2032	3300	Parkesburg	1872	2759	3400
Downingtown	1859	5598	7900	Phoenixville	1849	13797	15,100
Elverson	1911	472	1000	Spring City	1867	3162	3500
Honeybrook	1892	1023	1100	West Chester	1799	15705	16,700
Kennett Square	1855	4355	5200	West Grove	1893	1607	2200

CITY CHARTERED	DATE	1960 POPULATION	1970 Pop.*
Coatesville	1915	12,971	13,400

* Estimated

COUNTY FINANCES

DEPOSITORIES—SAFEGUARDING FUNDS

Tax Collection Procedure

Tax collectors are elected to office for a term of four years and perform the duties thereof, collecting the local taxes in their communities. The County Assessors office prepares and mails all County tax bills, which are payable directly to the County Treasurer. The Assessor also prepares the assessment roll lists, and distributes to the local collectors on or about May 1st, annually, containing thereon the taxpayers names. As required by law, the tax collector must qualify by filing bond and satisfying other legal requirements. The Collector is required to submit monthly reports to the local agencies of all local taxes collected and remitted. Tax collectors are paid a percentage, and in some instances are paid salaries, for all taxes collected. Expenses for postage, supplies and insurance bond in addition are permitted, for which he is reimbursed.

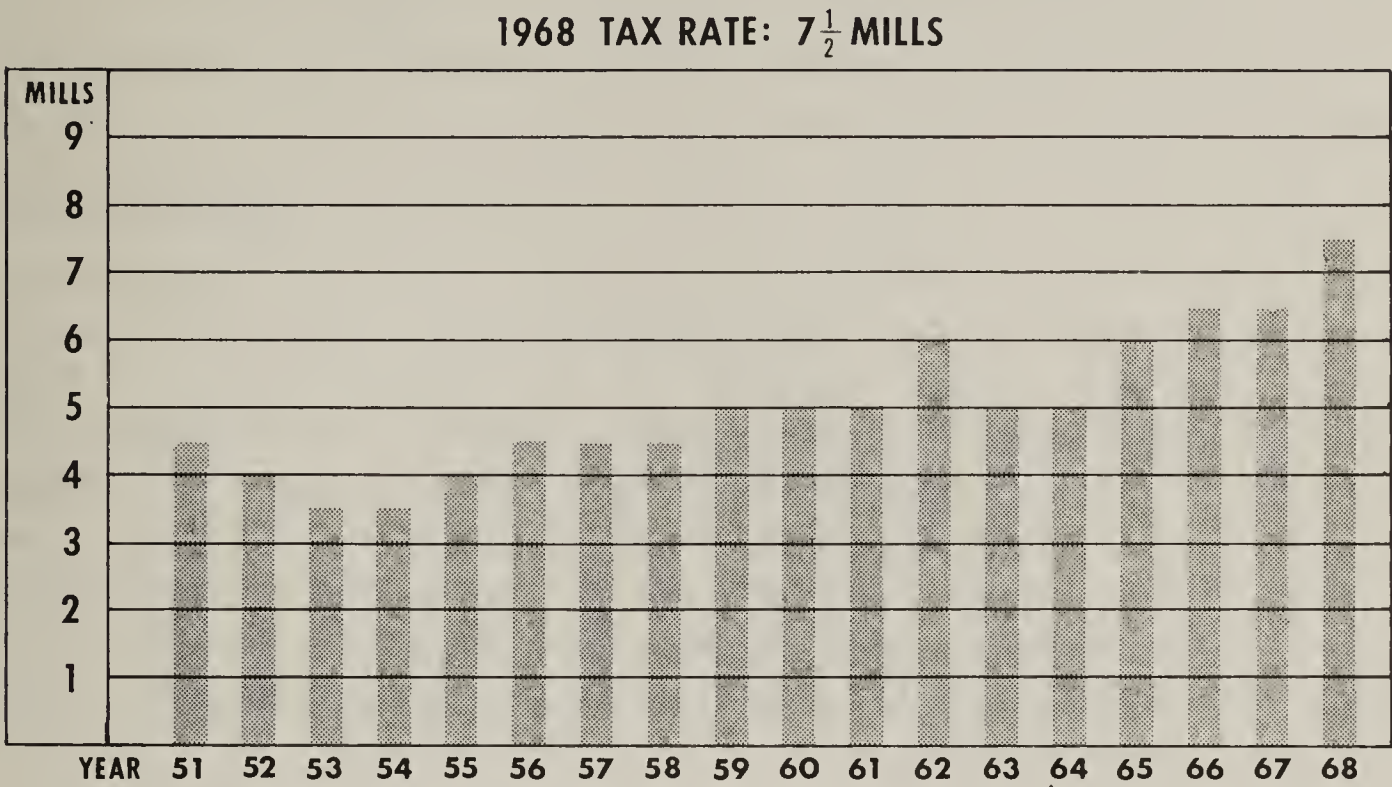
Collection of Delinquent Taxes

In compliance with Act of 1947, known as "The Real Estate Sales Law," Chester County established a Tax Claim Bureau, which consolidated the former duties of the County Treasurer, with direct supervision under the Commissioners in all pertinent matters concerning the collection of taxes and sales of Real Estate for non-payment of taxes. The duties are performed by a department chief, and four assistants, appointed by the Commissioners. Current taxes become delinquent if unpaid by November 1st, each year. Penalties of five per cent are added after November 1st. If still unpaid by the first Monday in May the succeeding year, they become a matter of the Tax Claim Bureau, and an interest penalty of one-half per cent per month is added to the balance already accumulated. It is then the Delinquent Tax Collector is immediately appointed by the Treasurer for that year, and is charged with the collection of all delinquent county taxes. Remittance for current tax collections are made directly to the County Treasurer, while delinquent tax collections are made to the Tax Claim Bureau. Operating under this law, gives the advantage to the property owner by permitting him to make quarterly payments on his delinquent taxes, all within one year; and the County benefits, in that it allows the Bureau to sell, free and clear of all encumbrances, and to issue a Deed in Fee simple for the property sold, except in certain circumstances—first mortgages.

General Fund Receipts

The County's income is derived principally from Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes. The 1968 tax rate is 7.5 mills. Other sources are from fee offices, and miscellaneous revenues such as commissions, interest, rentals, and fines. Gross revenue from fee offices are turned over to the County's general fund, after which expenses of operation of the fee offices are deducted. The Personal Property Tax is levied by Act of Legislature setting uniform rate in the

State except Allegheny and Philadelphia Counties. Real Estate Tax rate is established by the County Commissioners upon figures developed by the Board of Assessment and Revision of Taxes, of Chester County.



Safeguarding Funds

The Controller exercises general supervision and control over fiscal affairs, and of accounts of all offices collecting or disbursing County Funds, by the Controller, an elective officer of the County. Vouchers for payment of all County obligations are drawn by the Controller and submitted to the County Commissioners. Checks are signed by the Commissioners, Controller and Treasurer. County

COLLECTION OF COUNTY TAXES

YEAR	TAX LEVY	% Collected
1962	2,221,529.22 87%
1963	1,951,427.03 88%
1964	2,039,160.03 88%
1965	2,539,803.71 89%
1966	2,667,096.63 90%
1967	3,017,625.41 89%
TOTAL PER CENT COLLECTED FOR 6 YEAR PERIOD 88.5%		

funds are kept in various depositories within the County, each of which is determined and designated by the Commissioners and the Treasurer by resolution. This is generally done some time in mid January, following the election of the County Treasurer. Upon designation and qualification of such depositories, the County Treasurer shall immediately transfer thereto all County funds. By law, the depositories must be in banks, banking institutions or trust companies located within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It will be noted, Chester County's depositories, by custom, are all within the County. Each depository furnishes or deposits collateral in escrow with the Federal Reserve Bank. The County Commissioners, Controller and his Deputy, the County Treasurer and all his employees, as well as other employees entrusted with collecting or disbursing County funds are Bonded. Employees of the Treasurer's office are finger printed. Burglary insurance is carried on the Treasurer's office and vault, as is messenger insurance on funds transported to or from a depository. The Voucher system provides for attaching the check to the vouchers so that one entry covers all needs. They are made up in one original and one copy. The original is attached to the bill and filed in the Controller's Office. The first copy is filed separately in the Controller's Office. This system requires each officer to sign only once for check and voucher.

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Early Pioneers

Iron and Steels

The first industry to flourish in Chester County was located in the northern townships of Coventry, Nantmeal and Vincent. As early as 1716, Coventry Forge was established and for a period of years was the leading iron center in Pennsylvania. The first steel to be manufactured in America was produced in 1732 at Coventry Forge. Nearby Reading Furnace, also located along French Creek, was erected in 1720. Warwick Furnace was founded in 1737 and was famed for its stoves, pots, kettles, and irons, clock weights, revolutionary cannons and cannon balls. Valley Forge Furnace was founded in 1757 and destroyed by the British in 1777. Hopewell Furnace, now in Berks County, was erected in 1770 and has in recent years been restored as a national historic monument.

The nineteenth century saw the same industry promote the growth of Coatesville, Parkesburg and Phoenixville. Lukens Steel Company, the first rolling mill, not only in Chester County, but in the nation, was established in East Fallowfield Township by Isaac Pennock about 1793. Located on Buck Run, it was known as the Federal Slitting Mill. Dr. Charles Lukens, after marrying Isaac Pennock's daughter, Rebecca, joined in a partnership with his father-in-law. In 1816, the Doctor and his wife moved to Coatesville where he operated the Brandywine Iron Works. It was here the first boiler plate was made in Pennsylvania, and very probably the first in America. At the turn of the century, this mill was held to be the world's largest platemill, and the oldest continuous steel manufacturer in the nation. Subsequent to Dr. Lukens' death in 1825, his widow, Rebecca, successfully continued and expanded operations for many years. She, in later years, became known as the outstanding woman industrial executive of her time.

Papermaking

The County's first paper mill was started in 1779 by John Fulton on Big Elk Creek in East Nottingham Township. Since this beginning there have been paper mills at 63 other locations in the County. Of today's eight mills, six are located in or near Downingtown. The largest of these, Downingtown Paper Company, was established in 1881. It now has more than 700 employees at the



Molten steel is tapped from an electric furnace at Lukens Steel Company in Coatesville. Lukens electric melting facilities are the most modern in the world devoted exclusively for the production of steels for plates.

Downingtown plant. The other seven mills currently have a total of more than 300 employees. By 1850 machine-made paper had displaced the hand-made product. Mechanization brought larger mills and centralization into a smaller number. Among Chester County families in which there have been three or more generations engaged in the Papermaking business are: Bicking, Garrett, Lysle, Marshall, McHenry, and McIlvain.

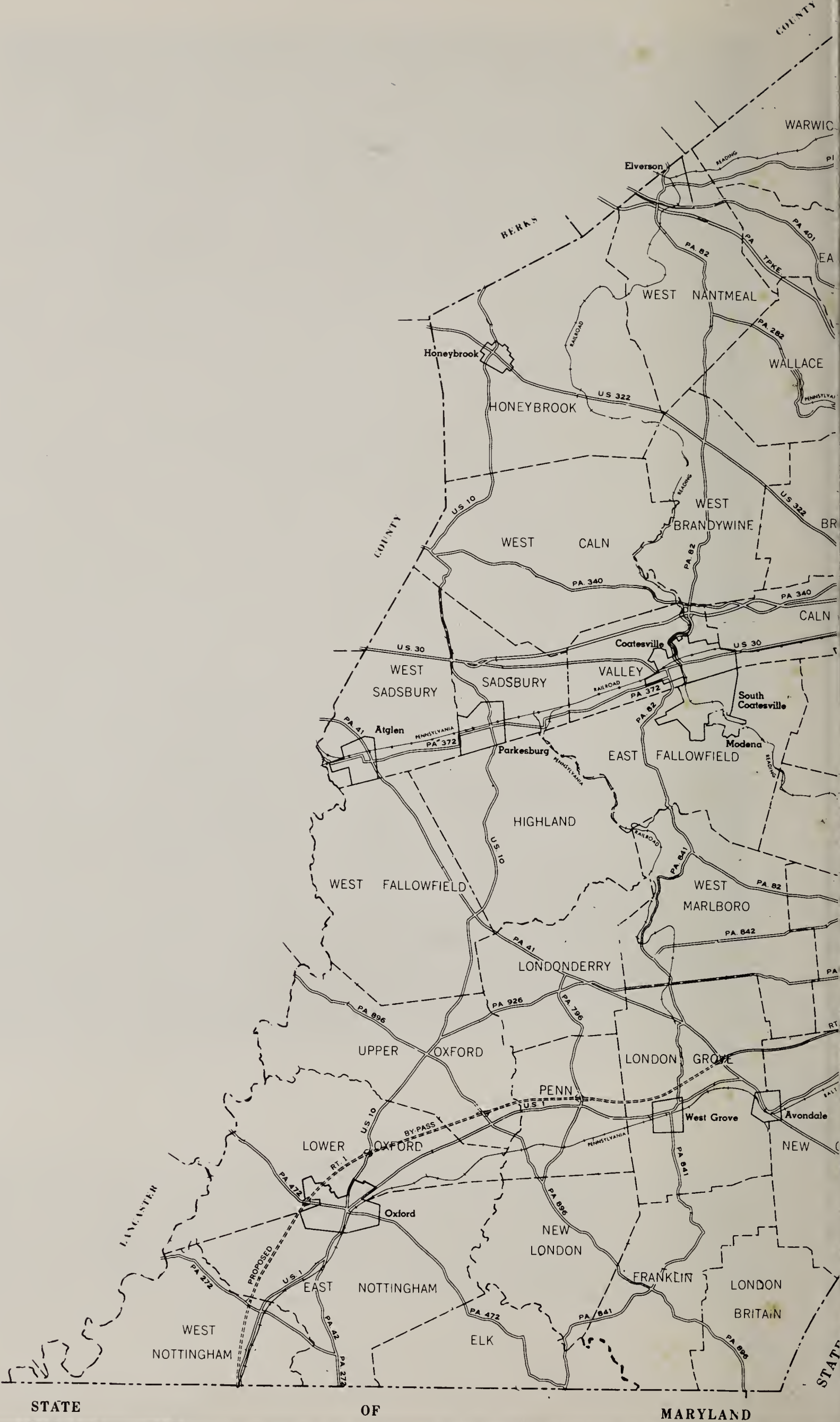
Rocks, Ores, and Minerals

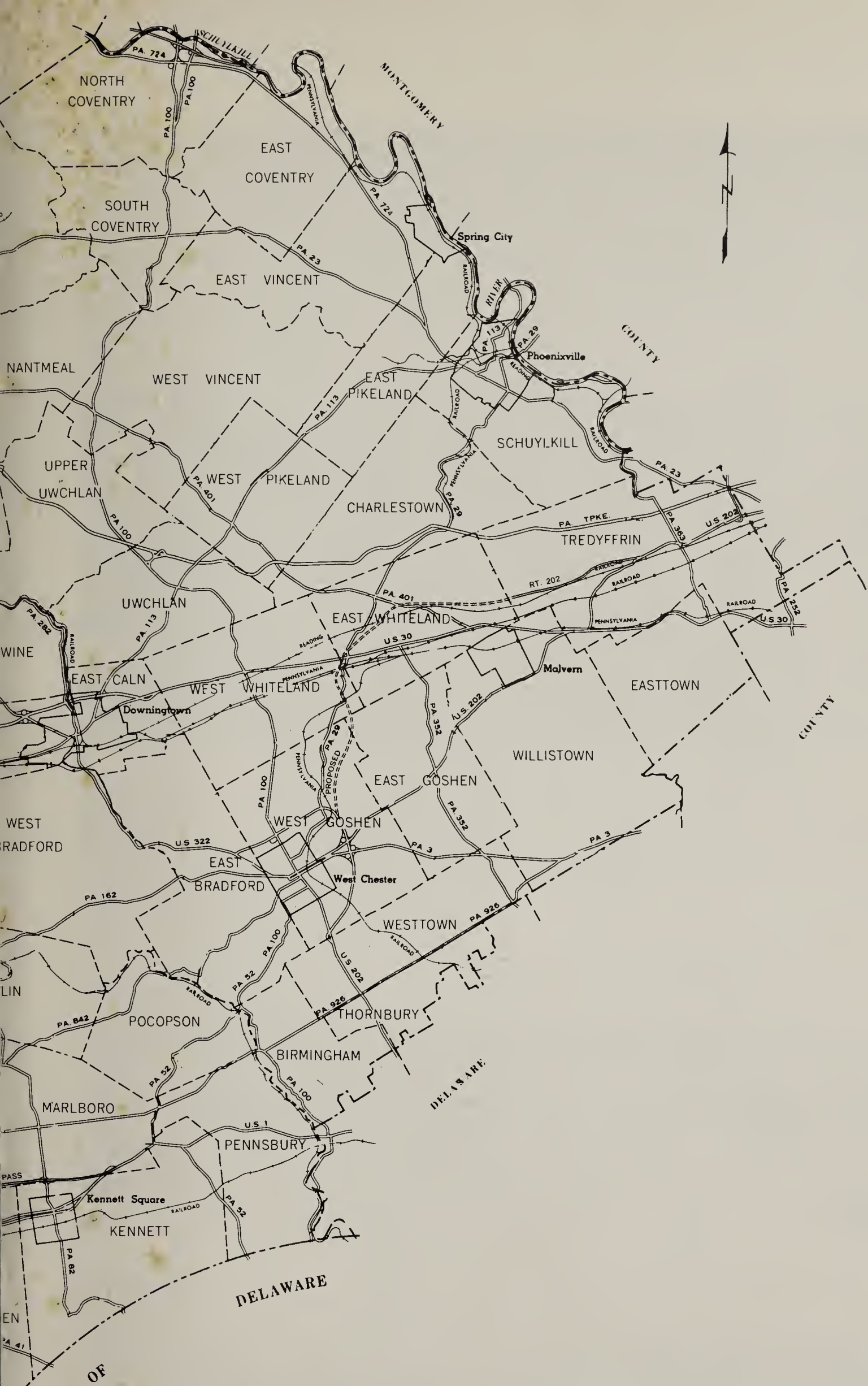
The County has extensive deposits of limestone in the thirty-mile Chester Valley which extends in a narrow belt from Lancaster County on the west, to Montgomery County on the east. At scores of places in this belt lime was burned many years ago, but such operations are now largely limited to the giant plant of the Warner Company at Cedar Hollow in East Whiteland Township. Several small pockets of limestone are scattered over the County. Limestone has been widely used for building purposes and extensively crushed for road material. In the 1830's marble was obtained from the Thomas quarry near Whitford. Another marble deposit north of Avondale was worked in the early 1900's. Other noteworthy rocks in the County are — gneiss, sandstone, serpentine (once popular as a building stone), quartzite, and trap rock.



Downingtown Paper Co. Downingtown, Pa.

Iron ore containing hematite, limonite, or magnetite has been found in localized pockets in the northern half of the County. At an early date these deposits led to the erection of furnaces and forges. These, in turn, led to the establishment of slitting mills, rolling mills, and iron works. No deposits of iron ore are currently being used.





CHESTER COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA



Hewlett-Packard Co.



Burroughs Large Computer Systems Plant, Great Valley

Among minerals chromite, corundum, feldspar, graphite, kaolin, magnesite, mica, and talc have been mined on a limited scale in the County. Of these magnesite is the only one now of much economic importance. In past decades local quarries and pits were a source of a wide variety of mineral specimens and were patronized by mineralogists and "rock hounds." It has been claimed that Chester County contains a wider variety of worthless minerals than any similar area in the United States.



Foote Mineral Company

The Phoenix Iron Company was founded at Phoenixville in 1783. The property of Jonas Thompson, it was renamed Phoenix Iron Works in 1813, and continued without much success until 1828, manufacturing nails principally. Following acquisition of the property at a Sheriff's Sale, the new ownership materially increased and improved the works until they were equal to, if not superior to, any rolling mill in the world, surpassing in size the then mighty "Krupp Works" in Germany. It manufactured iron for railroads, fancy works, bridges, beams and joists for building, and ribs and decks for iron ships.

In the precious metals field, gold and platinum for industrial use, is Matthey Bishop Corporation, founded in 1842 by Joaquin Bishop and operated in Sugartown and later Malvern as J. Bishop and Company.



Wyeth Laboratories



Gindy Manufacturing Corp., Upper Uwchlan Twp.

Agricultural and Horticultural

Historically, agricultural and horticultural activities have maintained a strong position in the economy of the County. Today, greenhouse products, roses, mushrooms and dairy products continue to provide a major source of income.

Summary

Aiding early industry as well as present industry are minerals, abundant water power, a good network of roads, rail facilities, communications and a skilled and productive labor force. In addition to those engaged in the early iron industry, the tax assessment rolls transcripts disclose an abundance of craftsmen in all trades and skills, appropriate for producing goods for local consumption. From these early foundations, many diversified industries have developed throughout the County, equally as interesting and noteworthy, up to and including the present atomic era or space age.



The Instructo Corporation, Paoli Industrial Park, Tredyffrin Twp.



G. O. Carlson, Inc. Thorndale, Pennsylvania



McAvoy Brick

The Present Industrial Profile

During the past decade, industry in Chester County has experienced a remarkable growth. There are now approximately 350 manufacturing firms located in the Chester County employing over 30,000 persons. Nearly one out of every four industrially employed people work in the three blast furnaces in the County, and 48 per cent of the total work in the 100 firms producing primary or fabricated metal products, and machinery, except electrical. Included in this total are firms producing computing and accounting machines, which, between them, account for the second largest group of employees, close to 3,000. Despite the accent on heavy industry, the 41 producers of food and kindred products employ 3,070 people, with roughly a third of them working for the mushroom canning industry. The chemical and allied products group of 26 firms employ an additional 2,620 with almost half in companies producing pharmaceutical preparations. Paper and allied products manufacturing accounts for employment of 1750 workers in 15 plants.

It is interesting to note that 21,550 workers are male and 8,200 female. Wages and salaries have risen steadily for an entire decade with total manufacturing payrolls doubling to a total of over \$205,000,000.



Bundy Corp., National Rolling Mills Division, East Whiteland Twp.

Coatesville is the leading industrial center with close to 6,500 employees in its 13 major industries. Downingtown with 16 plants and Phoenixville with 21 compete closely for second place with about 3,000 employees each. West Chester, despite its cottage town atmosphere, has 2,200 people working in its 30 industries.



Matthey Bishop, Inc. Aerial View-MBI Plant- Frazier, Pa.

Chester County products find their way to countries around the world. Seventy-two firms now export goods to foreign countries and the value of such exports amounts to \$27,000,000 annually.

Major Industries

Chester County has become the home of numerous industries which have chosen to locate corporate or regional headquarters here. The list of such firms which employ over 100 persons includes:

Aeroprojects, Inc.
 American Hardware Supply Co.
 American Lacquer Solvents Co.
 American Mushroom Corp.
 American Pamcor, Inc.
 Aqua-Chem Inc.
 Automation Industries, Inc.

 Beloit Corp.
 Boiler Engineering & Supply Co., Inc.
 Bonney Forge & Foundry, Lenape Forge Div.
 Bordens, Inc., Brandywine Foods Div.
 Bundy Corp., National Rolling Mills Div.
 Burroughs Corp.

C & C Compost, Hudson Farms, Inc.
 Campbell Soup Co., Pepperidge Farm, Inc., Div.
 Cardinal Cottons Corp.
 G. O. Carlson, Inc.
 Chemical Leaman Tank Lines, Inc.
 Continental Can Company, Inc.

 Deluxe Check Printers, Inc.
 Denney-Reyburn Co.
 A. P. de Sanno & Son, Inc.
 Downingtown Paper Co.

F. M. C. Corp.	Oxford Manufacturing Co., Inc.
Foote Mineral Co.	Oxford Royal Mushroom Products, Inc.
Alan I. W. Frank Corp.	Oxy-Catalyst, Inc.
Gindy Manufacturing Corp.	
Grocery Store Products Co.	Penguin Industries, Inc.
	Pennsylvania Flexible Metallic Tubing Co.
J. Halpern Co.	Philco-Ford Corp.
Harowe Servo Controls, Inc.	Phoenix Steel Corp.
Hewlett-Packard Co.	Phoenixville Manufacturing Co.
John R. Hollingsworth Co.	Plastomatic Corp.
The Instructo Corp.	Rando Industries
Jones Motor Company	Roberts Packing Co.
Kennett Canning Co.	
Keystone Drawn Steel Co.	Schramm, Inc.
	Sircom Knitting Co.
	Spring City Knitting Co.
Lasko Metal Products, Inc.	J. B. Swayne & Son, Inc.
Layton-Greenfield, Inc.	
Lukens Steel Co.	Valley Forge Flag Co., Inc.
	Valley Maid, Inc.
Matthey Bishop, Inc.	Vishay Intertechnology, Inc.
Milprint, Inc.	
Mohasco Industries, Inc., Charles Lachman Div.	Warner Co.
Mushroom Cooperative Canning Co.	The West Co.
	West Grove Knitting Mills, Inc.
NVF Company	White Motor Co., Autocar Div.
Nachman Corp.	Wyeth Laboratories, Inc.
National Foam System, Inc.	
Nottingham Canning Co., Inc.	Zeks Industries, Inc.
Nu-Pak Co.	

A complete listing of all industries in the county is contained in an Industrial Directory, periodically published by the Chester County Development Council and available at their office.

Industrial Development

Chester County has developed a program of sound industrial expansion by attraction of enterprises which can be expected to prosper here and which will be compatible with existing industries and living standards. The Chester County Development Council has been charged with this responsibility and its activities have been geared to create a climate for continuing economic growth.

Among the many advantages of a Chester County location are its markets, transportation facilities, highly productive and skilled labor force and the many excellent sites available for industrial use. Among the numerous planned industrial communities are one dozen industrial parks, a number of which have been designated as "Citation Sites" by the Development Council.

Utilities and Communications

Modern public utilities now serve and sustain the present and expanding industry in Chester County. For electric power, the Philadelphia Electric Company is the prime source, supported in the Atglen area by the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, and in the Elverson area by Metropolitan Edison Company. Philadelphia Electric Company also provides natural gas to most areas of the County excepting portions in the Oxford area served by Oxford Gas Company.

Water is provided by numerous private utility companies and municipal systems. The sources of water are abundant underground supplies and surface reservoirs. The most populous areas of Eastern Chester County are served by the Philadelphia Suburban Water Company.

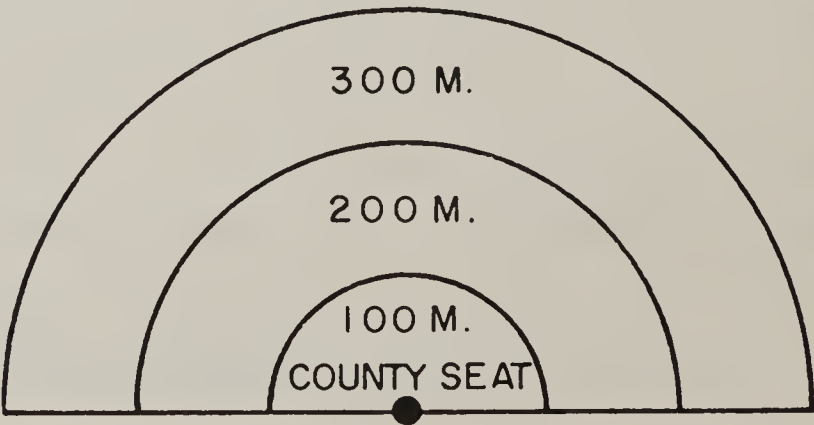
Communications are amply provided by the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania, three daily and nine weekly newspapers, in addition to the major metropolitan dailies, and local radio stations WCHE and WCOJ.

Transportation Markets

Chester County is located in the midst of the great markets of the Delaware Valley and the vast eastern megalopolis. Within 100 miles are markets with a population of 25 million. Among all counties in the Philadelphia metropolitan area, this County has the highest projected rate of population growth. Within 500 miles are over 50% of the U.S. Population, 70% of manufacturing employment and 55% of the total income. Our home markets alone are larger than many whole nations.

Distances

The distances in miles from the county seat to some major cities are: Allentown 50, Atlantic City 86, Baltimore 83, Boston 359, Harrisburg 77, Lancaster 34, New York City 115, Philadelphia 25, Pittsburgh 273, Reading 40, Washington 126, Wilmington 17, and York 63.



Freight Transportation

Chester County is served by 80 interstate motor freight companies and numerous intrastate carriers, assuring prompt and economical deliveries. Rail freight service is likewise well provided by the systems of the Reading Company and the Penn Central Company.

Seaports

Chester County has ready access within 25 miles from mid-county to one of the largest fresh water ports in the world, the Port of Philadelphia. The Delaware Marine Terminal in Philadelphia provides the most modern cargo facilities within less than an hour's time.

Commuter Transportation

Bus service is provided by two transportation systems, Short Line, Inc. and Philadelphia Suburban Transportation Company. Commuter rail service is provided by the Penn Central Company in West Chester and along the railroad's "Main Line" in Paoli, Downingtown and Coatesville, and the Reading Railroad which services Phoenixville. These systems are part of a coordinated transportation network which will be operated in the future by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority or SEPTA.

Chester County Area Airport Authority

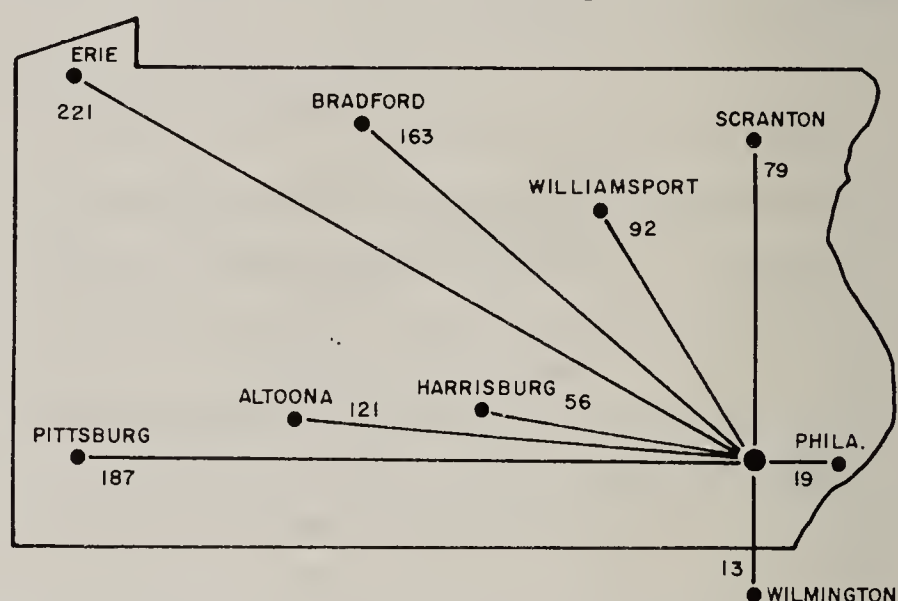
In keeping pace with air progress for the civic, industrial and residential development of our County, through modern and progressive planning, Chester County is among the first counties in Pennsylvania to establish an Airport



Chester County Airport

Authority within the Metropolitan area of Philadelphia. This authority was created from the inspiration of several active and progressive-minded residents, and our County Commissioners, under the Municipality Authorities Act of 1945. It was incorporated in 1957, and established in 1959. Directed by a nine member board, with a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, with the advice of an appointed 28 member Advisory Committee. Funds were obtained by the Authority through voluntary contributions from federal, state and area funds to meet the nearly one half million dollars capital investment required. It is located in Valley Township about a mile east of the western terminus of the Coatesville-Downingtown cut-off on U. S. 30, west of Coatesville. It has a frontage of 1,400 feet on the south side of the Lincoln Highway, comprising

Air Miles to Cities in
Pennsylvania



approximately 250 acres. Readily accessible from all parts of the County, by auto, bus and rail. It has preferred topographical and atmospheric conditions. It has a paved runway of 4600 feet by 100 feet, and a paved taxiway, both lighted. Has paved entrance road and ample parking area. The hangar building has room to park, 40 aircraft indoors, with a back supporting section of suspended cantilever type, and 60 outdoors. It is complete with necessary facilities to meet the requirements of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Bureau of Aeronautics, Labor and Industry, as well as the Federal Aviation Agency. These facilities are sufficient to permit use of most executive type twin engine aircraft and helicopters. It has an excellent potential as a feeder of both passenger and freight to and from the metropolitan airports, which now have over-taxed demands. There are 60 tiedown facilities available for planes.

It is equipped with a M-H facilities, low frequency beacon, strobe lighting which provides positive identification of runways. Full weather service, communications, and has been approved for instrument approach for bad weather and night landings.

At present the airport has an approved flight training school by FAA and Veterans Administration, which is conducted by licensed flight instructors to provide instruction from students to air transport rating.

Aviation gasoline facilities for 80 and 100 octane, are available, including major repair for most light air-craft.

The Federal Aviation Administration has just recently awarded a permanent license, replacing the temporary license.

COUNTY SERVICES

Assessment and Revision of Taxes, Board of

The Board now has the responsibility, under the assessment law of May 21, 1943, to make proper assessments, re-assessments and revision of taxes on all taxable real estate within the County. The Board is composed of three board members appointed by the County Commissioners. The departmental duties of the office is directed by the three member board. The various departments are made up of a Chief Assessor and assistant Chief Assessor, a group of 6 field appraisers, a mapping department, and a fifteen (15) member staff to enable the office to properly assess and re-assess 74,832 parcels of real property within the County, and to assure that all properties be assessed on a fair basis. The office maintains a card system identifying the ownership of every parcel of land in the County. The field appraisers visit and inspect each property, taking measurements, noting type of construction, improvements, age, depreciation and type of neighborhood surrounding the property. The assessment ratio applied by the County Commissioners for tax purposes is 40% of the market value of each parcel. Previous ratios ranged from 29 per cent to 50 per cent. The combined aerial photography and professional appraisals cost the County \$539,500.00. The Board sits as a semi-judicial body to hear and decide appeals. Appeals from the Board of Assessment decisions may be taken to the County Courts. The number of tax exempt items is less than 5 per cent.

Personal Property Bureau

This phase of assessments on personal property functions in a Bureau, created in 1956 by the Board of Assessments and Revision of Taxes, which has the responsibility of assessing personal property comprising mainly taxable bonds, stocks, mortgages and notes, owned by County residents. Department duties are performed by a Director, an Assistant, and a clerical staff. The Bureau supplies the forms on which holdings of personal property are to be listed. Based on these returns, tax bills are prepared and mailed to the taxpayer by this department, and payment therefor is made to the County Treasurer. Upon failure of a taxpayer to file a return, an assessment can be made by the Bureau with a penalty added, and a date set for an appeal, if the taxpayer so desires. Upon failure of a taxpayer to appear on a scheduled date and file a return, the amount of the assessment then fixed by the Bureau stands. Upon failure to pay Personal Property Taxes, a lien will be entered in the Prothonotary's Office. The tax rate is fixed by the legislature at four mils. Since the creation of the Bureau in 1956, with the total assessment then of 114.4 million dollars and a collection total of \$456,145.66. The 1967 total billing was better than \$1,058,271.42.

Central Purchasing

A full time purchasing agent was appointed by the county commissioners, February, 1969.

The purpose of this office is to centralize all purchases within all county governmental departments, in order to effect volume purchasing saving.

Chester County Building

The new County Building was constructed at the site of the old prison, New and Market Streets, West Chester, cost approximately \$600,000.00 fully equipped and furnished. This is another reflection of progress by the County Commissioners toward the alleviation of over-crowded office conditions in the Court House and the Court House Annex. Occupancy was made in early fall, 1962. In this building is found the Chester County Library, Child Care Service and the County Superintendent of Schools.

Elections, County Board of

The Election Bureau, located in the Court House operates under the Election Code of June 3, 1937, which makes Counties responsible for the holding of all elections in the County, and the payment of all costs. The County Commissioners constitute the Election Board. It maintains all the equipment and supplies used in connection with elections. The Board provides petitions for candidates; arranges for drawings to determine places on the ballot; provides ballot boxes and booths for each voting district; or voting machines where they have been approved by the voters; causes the necessary number of ballots to be printed; arranges for the polling places, and names the tabulating board which makes the official count of votes cast. The official count is begun at noon on the Friday following Election Day. The official count is certified by the Board of Elections, and the books are kept open for five days against possibility of appeal. When the County Commissioners themselves are candidates, the Court supervises the vote tabulation. Nomination petitions must be filed at least 13 weeks prior to the Primary. Nomination petitions shall be circulated before the primary. Polls open for elections at 7:00 A.M. and close at 8:00 P.M., E.S.T. All persons except watchers, persons in the course of voting, and persons lawfully giving assistance to voters, must remain at least ten feet distant from the polling place during the progress of the voting, and when the hour for closing the polls shall arrive, all voters who have already qualified and are inside the enclosed space, shall be permitted to vote; plus ten qualified electors who are in the polling place outside the enclosed space, waiting to vote, shall be permitted to vote, if found qualified. Provision is made for the use of Military, Veterans and Civilian Absentee Ballots. The secret ballot was adopted in Pennsylvania in 1891.

Chester County Farms (Prison)

Another of the many facets of county administration is the maintenance of a County Prison. The County Prison, which adjoined the Court House, was established in 1786. It was replaced by the prison at New and Market Streets in 1839, and again replaced early in 1959 by the new Chester County Farms. It marks another progressive milestone for the County officials. The prison is located in the rural atmosphere in Pocopson Township, adjoining the Pocopson Home at Pocopson on Route 52 between Lenape and Longwood Gardens. The modern, fire-proof structure is a far different one than the preceding institutions, the last of which was built to house a maximum of forty-two persons, (the present one can hold one hundred seventy-two prisoners). Here again, foresight was exercised in the planning of the structure, utilities, kitchen, hospital ward, chapel and other basic services, whereby it may be expanded to accommodate some three hundred and fifty prisoners by the simple addition of one and a half wings of cells, or housing space. Census in the recent abandoned prison averaged one hundred thirteen, far in excess of that contemplated even when the original building was expanded. The new Chester County Farms averages one hundred forty monthly, with confinements and releases averaging eighty per month. The prison policy does not encourage idleness among the prisoners while serving their sentences. Numerous tasks, both within and without the prison proper, are available, and those who work are very modestly paid. The health of prisoners is cared for by both a physician and a dentist. Food is ample and well prepared, but delicacies are not included. The farms themselves will provide a large percentage of the food products consumed both by the prison and adjoining Pocopson Home. Personnel totals forty-two, including the Warden and Matron on duty to maintain security twenty-four hours a day. For legal guidance, a Solicitor is provided. Motor Code violations account for the largest single cause of confinement, since the Courts are justifiably strict in the punishment of those who endanger life through improper use of automobiles. Modern and humane attitudes govern the administration of the prison. A Board of Prison Inspectors, composed of the four Judges of the Common Pleas Court, County Commissioners, District Attorney, Controller and Sheriff, make periodic inspection tours of the prison. The Board of Prison Inspectors (whose members serve without compensation) has as its prime responsibility the inspection of the facilities, all matters pertaining to its proper conduct and maintenance, and the treatment received by the inmates. This acts as another balance or check in the task of administering the affairs of the County fairly and efficiently.

Children's Services

Concern for protecting the welfare of Pennsylvania's future citizens brought about a law placing responsibility on counties for Public Child Welfare Services aimed at preventing neglect and abuse, and safeguarding the welfare of children.

In fulfilling this responsibility the County Commissioners of Chester County organized a Department in 1957 which is known as Chester County Children's Services (formerly Child Care Service). State and federal funds are appropriated annually to the county to help defray the cost of these services, providing the Department adheres to state regulations. One of these mandates that staff must be qualified by professional training and experience and must be hired in accordance with civil service regulations.

An Advisory Committee composed of representatives of the county, appointed by the County Commissioners, serves without pay to make recommendations to the Commissioners on matters pertaining to the development of a sound program for child welfare.

Although some parents voluntarily apply for help when they feel they can no longer cope with their problems, most of the work is with families reported to be abusing or neglecting their children. Death, desertion, separation or divorce often bring on bewildering problems to the lone parent. Sometimes it is mental illness or physical breakdown that threatens to disrupt normal family life. Believing that every child needs his own parents, and dedicated to the premise that children should be kept in their own homes if at all possible, Children's Services works untiringly with parents, attempting to improve conditions so families can stay together.

There are times however when efforts to prevent family breakdown are futile and when mentally limited or emotionally disturbed parents can no longer be trusted to care for their children. The Department is fortunate in having located kind hearted, generous foster parents who can offer love, warmth and emotional support to children until their parents can be helped to again take over responsibilities. Some children, especially adolescents, are unable to adjust in foster homes and Children's Services uses the facilities of group care in children's institutions. Some children come to the attention of the Department after many years of abuse and neglect which results in such disturbed behavior that only institutions offering special treatment services can help them gain inner controls.

Another way the Department helps children is in providing services to unmarried parents. The many confused, immature young people who become parents before they are ready to assume the responsibility of marriage need help in facing decisions for themselves and their babies. Casework services aimed at helping them gain insight into their emotional problems, gain self respect and inner strengths are needed to enable them to plan wisely and become more responsible in the future.

A few children are available for adoptive placement. These are the children born out of wedlock whose parents want opportunities for them that they cannot provide. There are also some older children placed in adoptive homes—children whose parents either abandon or ask for adoption when they recognize their inability to provide properly for them. Finding the right couple to love and cherish each infant or child available for adoption is the task of workers trained to understand all that is involved in adoptions.

Civil Defense

Modern Civil Defense was established in 1950 and is that branch of County Government which holds the responsibility under the County Commissioners for the direction and coordination of emergency operations in the event of an war emergency or major natural disaster. The County provides annual appropriations for its operation and space in the basement of the North Wing of the Court House. The duties are performed by a director, two deputies, and a secretary. Its activities are in cooperation with the federal Office of Civil Defense and the State Council of Civil Defense. The county organization is composed of eight operating divisions: fire and rescue, security, welfare, medical, communications, radiological, operations, and public information. Each division is headed by a volunteer chief.

A similar but usually smaller volunteer organization in the various political sub-divisions provide their governments with the same services on a local level. To provide coordination of emergency operations encompassing more than one county, the State Council of Civil Defense has divided Pennsylvania into three operational areas, Chester County being in the Eastern Area with headquarters at Lehighton, Pa.

Cost Clerk

The functions of this office are as follows: filing and indexing all tax bills received from the Clerk of Courts, forwarding to Probation Office a notification on non-support bills of the defendants with bill number and the amount of cost, issuing receipts for fines and costs and stand committed bills money, preparing insolvent discharge petitions and forms for signature of Commissioners, entering judgments in Prothonotary Office, processing bail bonds forfeitures, reporting annually to Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Revenue at Harrisburg, all insolvent motor violation discharges, reconciling accounts monthly, dispersing fines and costs, and working in close cooperation with the Chester County Farms Prison.

Court Facilities — (New—Old)

Progress and growth of the Chester County Court House was met on April 24, 1966, when a new Annex was completed and dedicated.

The need for the additional facilities was motivated due to the greatly increased volume of litigation which accompanied the rapid growth of the County. Two new court rooms in the new Annex provide the accommodations for disposing of a constantly growing case load, and keeps current the work of the Courts.

This much needed expansion and improvement of the physical plant which not only aids the operation of the Courts but all other phases of County government.

Linking this modern facade to Chester County's historical Thomas U. Walter's 1846 Corinthian Columned Court House of the past, the new Annex is spacious, functional, pleasant to work in or to visit.

Probably one of the most important steps undertaken during the past 10 years is the new Annex. Besides the new court rooms it also accommodates space for the offices of Adoption Investigator, Assessment Board and Revision of Taxes, Personal Property, Civil Defense, Clerk of Orphan's Court, Commissioners, Administrative Assistant and Personnel Director, Controller, Coroner, Court Reporters, Data Processing, District Attorney, Detective, Police Radio, Engineer, Jury Dormitories, Juvenile Probation, Maintenance, Microfilm, Park and Recreation, Planning Commission, Register of Wills, Registration Commission, Safety Council, Tax Lien, Tourist Promotion Bureau, Treasurer, Veterans Affairs and Adult Probation.

With the completion of the new five-story Annex contracts were let to provide for the renovation of Court Room Number One and the Judges Chambers, the Grand Jury Room, and the first floor row office facilities of the Prothonotary, Clerk of Courts, Sheriff, Recorder of Deeds and Board of Elections.

The work was completed and an open house was held on November 26, 1967.

Functionally, with better acoustics, lighting and central air conditioning, it has greatly improved the Federalist style court room and the above named offices.

At present Court Room Number Two is being renovated. This will complete the work. The new Annex, along with the recent renovation of the older building, is a source of community pride.

Data Processing Department

Chester County Data Processing Department began in 1962 with the installation of IBM unit record equipment. The voter registration and surplus food records were put on the machines at that time. In December of 1968, an IBM 360-20 card system was installed and at the present time the machine is serving approximately ten departments. Through extended use of this computer the County hopes to have twenty departments on it by mid 1970. The rapid growth of the County and the record keeping that has become mandatory has seen the computer come into its own in government where record keeping has become so great that without the use of electronic data processing the cost of government would soon become exorbitant.

The year 1968 has seen the number of registered voters in the County hit an all time high of 114,000, and the number of parcels of property in the real estate files in excess of 80,000. Through the use of the data processing machines, the real estate billing and voter registration lists get out in record time. With the expected continued growth of Chester County, the computer and the data processing department will become an indispensable part of Chester County government.

Development Council

The Chester County Development Council was created in 1960 under the Industrial Development Assistance Law of 1956 and designated by the Board of Commissioners as the official county agency for the promotion of industrial growth. The purposes of the Council are to promote the economic welfare of the county by securing new industries, encouraging the growth and expansion of existing industries and thereby create more jobs and greater payrolls. The Council is a non-profit corporation governed by a twenty-one member board of directors and its activities are carried out by an executive director and staff. The Council encourages long-range planning to provide suitable sites for industry and maintains extensive data on all such locations in Chester County. This information is made available to firms throughout the county through direct contact and national advertising campaigns. The Council encourages firms and individuals in the area to become members and participate in its programs.

Engineer

The County Engineer is a responsible, professional, registered engineer, appointed by the Commissioners. With the aid of his staff, he prepares surveys, plans, specifications and estimates and supervises engineering work undertaken by the County Commissioners. He prepares and revises periodically the County road maps, maintains County owned bridges, and performs general supervision of the design and construction of alterations and additions to County buildings. As Executive Secretary of the County Planning Commission he has general supervision and direction of the work of the Planning Commission and reviews all plans for the subdivision and development of land. He represents the County at Highway and Public Utility Commission hearings and at meeting of various local and regional organizations and performs in other capacities as requested by the County Commissioners.

Health Department

Authorized by county-wide referendum in November 1966, the Chester County Board of Health was appointed by the County Commissioners in 1967. The five-man Health Board proceeded with the necessary steps to organize a county health unit which was officially approved by the Secretary of Health, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on April 9, 1968.

Being directly responsive, at the local level, to the public health needs of Chester County residents and communities, this County Health Department functions to protect and improve the general health of the community, strengthen the personal health services provided within the community, and promote programs for the prevention of disease and disability.

Specific responsibilities include analysis of local data on illness, births and deaths; public health nursing; sanitation and other environmental health programs; investigation of disease outbreaks, tuberculosis control programs; child health conferences; and public health education.

County Health administration is financed by tax funds appropriated by the Chester County Commissioners; fifty per cent of the county's expenditure is matched by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania up to (\$.75) seventy five cents per capita. Beginning on May 16, 1968, services of the Department were provided from temporary office space in the Memorial Hospital of West Chester, Biddle Street Entrance.

Chester County Housing Committee

The Chester County Housing Committee was created by the Commissioners in 1962, for the purpose of making investigations and studies of housing conditions throughout the county, and to recommend to the local authorities where improvements should be made. The board is comprised of fifteen members of county-wide representation.

Library, Chester County

By action of the County Commissioners, a free public library for the county was created in 1935 making available books and literature and a bookmobile providing a wider source of literature primarily for students in the rural schools within the county. Since 1961 the emphasis has shifted from service to schools, to service to adults and students at a central library, strong in reference books. The central library is sustained by an annual county appropriation which for 1967 was \$127,500.00. In 1966 the library was able to qualify as a District Library Center under the State of Pennsylvania from whence it receives additional funds. The county library has two branches—the Coatesville Public Library and the Tredyffrin Township Public Library—supported partly by the county and partly by local appropriations. There are also six associated libraries in Atglen, Downingtown, Malvern, Parkesburg, Oxford and West Grove. The county library operates a bookmobile throughout the county in the late afternoon and evenings and Saturdays. Responsibility for the library rests in the hands of a Board of 7 members serving without compensation. Administration of the library is carried out by a professional library director, five professional librarians and a capable office and clerical staff.

Since 1962 the library has been housed in the County Building, 235 West Market Street.

Liquid Fuels Funds

These are derived from part of the permanent tax on fuel, collected by the State, paid into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund of the State Treasurer, and distributed to the Counties under the Liquid Fuels Tax Act. The broad use and purposes are for construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repairs of roads, highways and bridges, for property damages occasioned by the relocation or construction of highways and bridges, and for payment of interest and sinking fund charges on bonds issued, or used for highways and bridge purposes. Expenditures from the fund by the Commissioners for new construction of roads and bridges made only upon approval of the plans by the department of highways. Allocations to sub-divisions are made only upon proper approval of the Department of Highways. Unencumbered balances are distributed two ways and only upon application by the political sub-divisions; 50 per cent on mileage ratio basis; and 50 per cent on population basis. Funds may not be co-mingled with County funds but deposited and maintained in a special fund designated as the County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. For the purposes of conserving the time of the members of Borough Councils, Boards of Supervisors and the County Commissioners discussing county aid needs, the Commissioners have adopted the requirement that a formal application for county aid be prepared and submitted in lieu of personal appearance. The application to be in the hands of the Commissioners before the end of March annually; at which time action will be taken in every case. Those applications received after March, will, of necessity, have to be satisfied with their portion of whatever remains on hand beyond that date.

Maps

The official county map, first printed by the County in 1925, identifying sub-divisions, all traffic route numbered highways to scale, are distributed without cost. One of the most valued services provided by the County is that of the Map Department of the Board of Assessments, which lists every foot of Real Estate in each municipality, worked out on a scale map basis. The index maps, identify all roads, major streams and boundary lines. The property record maps are scaled 400 feet to the inch for open areas and 100 feet to the inch for developed areas. The aerial maps on topography are scaled to 400 feet, 1000 feet, and 2000 feet each to the inch. Any of these maps are available at a nominal cost to incorporated bodies at \$5.00 each—municipal bodies—and \$10.00 each, to individuals.

Microfilm and Duplicating

The function of this department, located on the lower level of the Court House, is to preserve or reproduce important county records. Deeds, mortgages,

wills, and other documents of value are microfilmed on Eastman 35-millimeter equipment, and the film rolls are stored underground in another location. The Diazo map machine is capable of duplicating maps and air photos up to 42" wide and copies of letters, notices and forms are made on modern Xerox equipment. The department serves many county offices and departments, furnishing photo-copies where required and assuring the preservation of records that will be needed in future years.

Parks and Recreation

The pastoral beauty of Chester County adds greatly to its charm and naturally attracts people to the County. In keeping with modern planning, the County Commissioners created a Park and Recreation Board in January 1958. The Board is composed of ten civic minded citizens who serve without compensation and function as an advisory body to the County Commissioners. The objective of the Board is a well-coordinated, county-wide program of national, state, county, township and municipal parks. The Board is authorized to receive gifts and legacies of land and to purchase property for development of County Parks. It is also authorized to assist and advise political subdivisions within the county in the initiation of their own local park and recreational programs. The Board is directed by a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary. They are assisted by an Executive Secretary and twelve full-time members of the Staff. The Central Office is located in Room 406, Court House-North Wing, West Chester. The park program is financed by appropriation from the county budget, and is promoted by providing speakers and films relative to progress in the development of park areas and allied subjects. A report of the Board's activities and finances is published each year in the form of an annual report, which can be obtained on request. The Board also welcomes requests for speakers and literature on parks and recreation. Three County Park areas, totaling 1605 acres, have been acquired since 1962. These parks, dedicated to and for the exclusive use of the residents of Chester County, contribute a definite quality to the life of our communities, not only in the sense of added beauty but in the general satisfaction of living and working in a county with a generous share of open space. Nottingham Park, 651 acres, is located in West Nottingham Township, four miles south of Oxford and was dedicated September 21, 1963. Hibernia Park, 721 acres, is located in West Caln and West Brandywine Townships, four miles northwest of Coatesville and was opened to the public on October 4, 1964. Recreational facilities available in these two operating parks include picnicking, camping, fishing, hiking, play areas and nature study. Warwick Park, purchased in November 1967, comprises 233 acres and is located in Warwick Township south of Route 23 in the Village of Knauertown. Acquisition of this property represents another step forward in establishing county parks geographically located in such a manner that citizens of all parts of the county will have easy access to a county park. In planning for Chester County's continued growth and development, provision for ample, protected open space must be given a high priority. Our County Parks will add

greatly to the economic strength and prosperity of the County as a whole, and provide an unlimited variety of wholesome and healthful outdoor activities for family recreation.

Planning Commission

The Chester County Planning Commission is sponsored by the County Commissioners to provide information and advisory services to the County government, the municipalities and the general public. Its functions and duties are many but there is special concern for the development of a continuous, coordinated, comprehensive planning process for the development of the County.

In carrying out this mission, the Commission must work along many areas at the same time as summarized below:

1. County Comprehensive Planning—In this responsibility, the Commission prepares information studies and or proposals of Chester County as a whole. In recent years the Commission has published a comprehensive plan for highways, has nearly completed a sewerage plan, a rail commuter plan, a land use plan, and has gathered much material on Natural Environment, population analysis and projections, water supply and community facilities.

2. Municipal Assistance—Since most planning, particularly land use zoning authority is vested in the municipalities, the County Planning Commission provides cash grants for comprehensive planning studies by consultants, and direct data and information about county and metropolitan regional proposals affecting local planning. In recent years, a major program has been to encourage municipalities within the major sub-regions of the county to work together as is now being done in the West Chester, Avon-Grove, Oxford and Northern Chester County regions. By early 1969 nearly all of Chester County's 73 municipalities had either completed a first round of planning or had made application for a planning program.

3. Map and Data Center—The Commission serves as the mapping and data center of the County. Several hundred maps have been prepared showing the natural and man-made characteristics of the County. The Planning Commission maintains a series of base maps at 1" to 2000 ft. based upon the U.S. Geological Survey maps, and the general county map distribution scale of 1" to 1 1/2 miles. The 1" to 2000 ft. series shows roads and road names, property lines, and major buildings and cultural features. Aerial photography in reproducible form at 1" to 800 ft. is available as of May of 1965 for the entire county and at 1" to 400 ft. for the eastern third of the county.

4. Information Center—The Planning Commission services many requests for information about such topics as population estimates and projections, highway proposals, zoning and planning proposals from the public.

5. Intergovernmental Representation and Federal Aid Reviews—A responsibility of the County Planning Commission that has grown greatly in recent years is its representation role with the Federal and state governments, neighboring counties, metropolitan regional planning agencies, and particularly with the Del-

aware Valley Regional Planning Commission. The Federal and state governments in recent years have increased the scope of their aid program available to county municipal governments, and has also increased the planning requirements needed to become eligible. The County Planning Commission assists in obtaining the necessary approvals, and in developing information bearing upon whether the County is obtaining a "fair share" of the aids available.

6. Subdivision Review—All subdivisions of three or more lots in townships must be reviewed by the County Planning Commission through the County Engineers office to help insure at least a minimum standard of protection in the design and engineering of a permanent addition to the landscape.

7. Special Studies—The Planning Commission is frequently called upon to make studies dealing with day-to-day problems that may come up such as power lines, water need projections, community shelter planning and public hearings on road or bridge improvement.

Emphasis in present planning thinking is on development of planning as a continuous coordinated comprehensive planning process. Planning must be continuous both to accommodate changing conditions and to make more specific and refined plans, as the planning process moves from general plans to a specific development proposal. Planning must be coordinated because cooperation among many levels of local, county, and sometimes state and Federal governments can be accomplished with overall planning goals. Planning must be comprehensive so that one element such as sewerage and water can be related to other elements such as land use and population projections. Planning must be a process, because without a process and organization, specific plans usually just gather dust. With the right process and organization, then, workable plans usually follow.

The County Planning Program is guided by a policy board of nine citizens appointed by the County Commissioners for six year terms and is served by a small technical staff and occasional consultants.

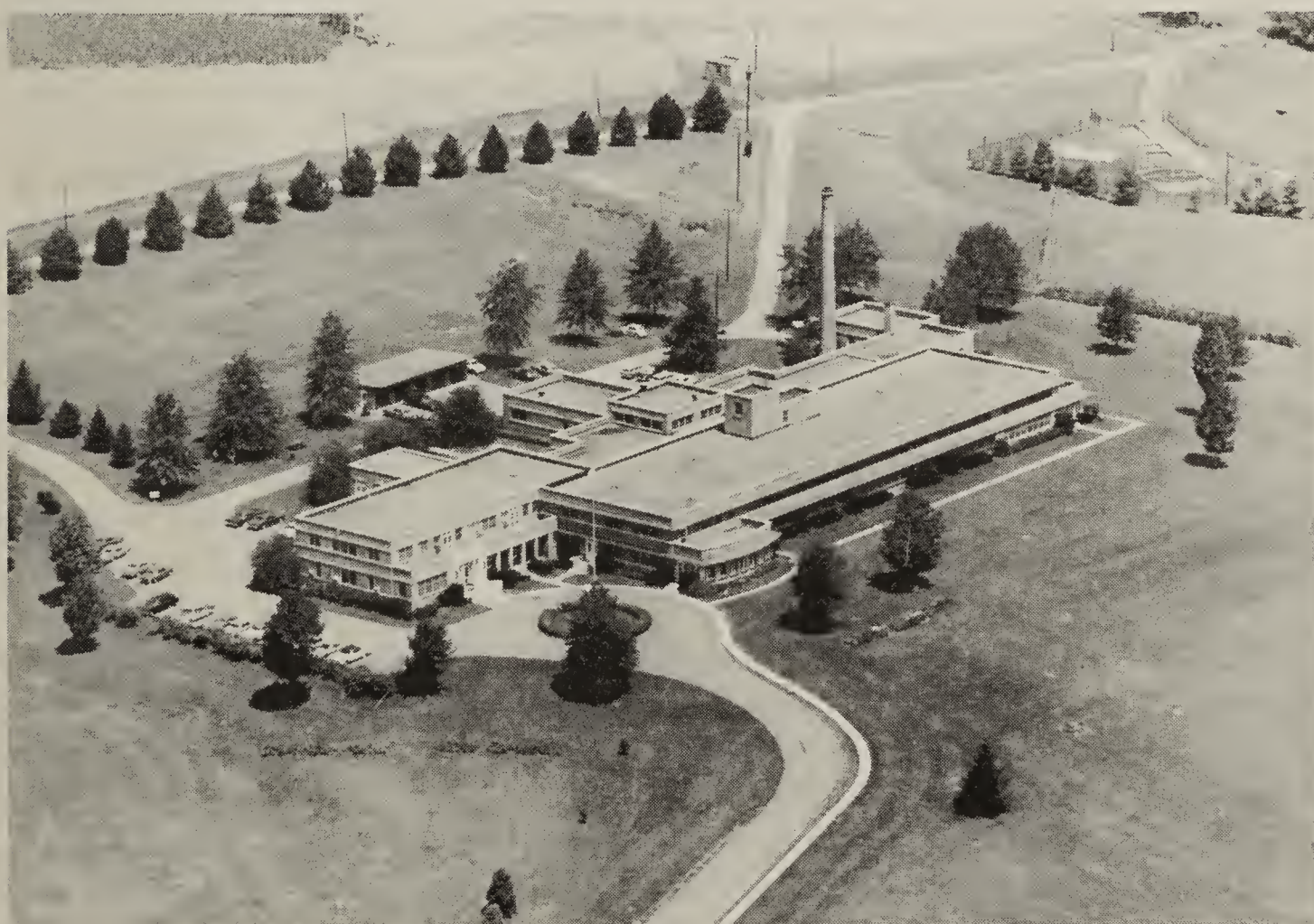
The Chester County Housing Committee was created by the Commissioners in 1962, for the purpose of making investigations and studies of housing conditions throughout the county, and to recommend to the local authorities where improvements should be made. The board is comprised of fifteen members of county-wide representation.

Personnel Department

The Personnel Department was created as a separate department by the County Commissioners January 1968, and appointed a Personnel Director. The Personnel Director is responsible for the testing and screening of all applicants for County employment and arranging for interviews between the Department Heads and the applicants. If requirements are met for a position, the Personnel Director and the Department Head recommends the applicant to the commissioners for approval and appointment. The Personnel Director is also responsible for keeping accurate confidential records of all County employees.

Pocopson Home

As evidence of its early consciousness and concern for the care of its indigent residents, Chester County established the Chester County Poor District with a director, overseers and guardians of the poor in 1798. This was replaced by the Pocopson Home which was established in 1951, at Pocopson on Pennsylvania route 52, between Lenape to Anvil, and operated under the County Institution District Law of June 24, 1937, as a separate corporation, until January 1, 1962, at which time the County Institution District Law was abolished, and the entire responsibility for operations was transferred to the County operations under the County Commissioners. The County Commissioners are the Executive and Administrative officers. The home is directed by an administrator. Today more than two hundred men and women make their homes within its walls, admitted after careful investigations as to their finances or means of support. Pocopson Home is indeed a far cry from the Alms House or Poor House of early days. A humane quality, and a concern for those less fortunate in worldly or material means, and a desire to see the declining days of the residents made as comfortable as possible, consistent with a commendable husbanding of county funds, are the guiding motives in the administration of the care of the guests of the Home. The Home is of recent, brick, fire-proof construction. It is a two-story building with a basement. It is divided into areas for men and women, and further divided into areas for ambulatory residents and for



Pocopson Home, Pocopson

those requiring special attention. The first floor, in addition to housing the administration area, contains a comfortable, well furnished lobby, occupational therapy sales room, physical therapy room, and business offices. Also established throughout the building, a meditation room, library, beauty parlor, pharmacy and laboratory, dental clinic, and central storage area; and in-service training quarters for employees; a chapel, in which services of major faiths are conducted; a kitchen, spotless and with tempting aromas prevalent as meals are prepared; dining rooms for the ambulatory residents, and the men and women's dormitories. It has a modern laundry, and ample sanitation facilities are provided. The first floor also houses a most interesting area—the department of occupational therapy. Here residents are encouraged to occupy themselves, using skills of former years, in the making of needlecraft, leathercraft, and other items requiring imagination and dexterity. Aprons, pot holders, belts, towels and many other skillfully contrived items are on display and may be sold. Proceeds revert to new inventory of material for this therapy. The second floor is devoted to those residents requiring special attention. Many, because of the infirmities of age, are confined to their beds. Others still needing the special care, are semi-ambulatory. A physician makes regular calls and is on call should illness strike. The basement contains the laundry in which all the clothing, as well as bed linens, towels and other washable items are laundered and pressed. Store rooms and maintenance facilities complete the basement. Every resident of Pocopson Home is given the opportunity to work within the limits of his or her physical abilities. No one, however, is ever forced to work; it is on a purely voluntary basis. Some of the residents work in the laundry, some in the kitchen, while others who prefer outdoor occupation busy themselves around the grounds. Many of the vegetables which appear at meals are grown at the home. Those residents who choose the opportunities to work are paid. The money, although modest, is theirs to spend as they see fit. Admission may be accomplished by applying directly to the Superintendent. If the qualifications for admission are met, those applying are placed on the waiting list until a vacancy occurs. The home is approved for extended care facilities under Medicare.

Police Radio

Chester County Police Radio began around the clock operation December 15, 1967, with equipment located in the District Attorney's office, at the Court House, West Chester, Pa.

The County Radio was not installed, however, until after an intensive program of research to determine the requirements of police agencies which would be used as a basis for recommended amount and type of equipment necessary to accomplish the purpose intended.

In addition to the normal activities, a modern records section is maintained to provide accurate information to aid the police agencies of the county. Further, all radio transmissions from mobile units and the base station are recorded. This provides an administrative protection for the county as well as for the officers

operating the mobile units. It also is a complete and accurate record of events as they happen and are readily available for review when needed.

Initially, the network consisted of mobile units for the County Detectives, the Sheriff's Office, and ten individual police departments, making a total of nineteen mobile units.

In any event, the Chester County Police Radio is ready and able to provide rapid, efficient, and accurate radio communication for all police agencies that desire to avail themselves of this service.

Public Defender

The office of Public Defender was established by the County Commissioners in April 1965. Prior to this time, indigent defendants had been represented in court through a voluntary arrangement with the County Bar Association.

People who are accused of crimes other than civil or domestic, may request the services of the Public Defender at no cost, providing they prove they are unable to pay for the services of an attorney.

Since the office opened, 603 defendants have been represented by an attorney attached to the Public Defender's office and more than 500 persons have been interviewed.

(See also Daily Local News May 24, 1968 article page 1 "Public Defender is Magistrates' Guest").

Redevelopment Authority

Again meeting modern processes to promote the elimination of blighted areas and supply sanitary housing in areas for health, safety and welfare, the Commissioners, by resolution early in 1960, created the Chester County Redevelopment Authority which was incorporated the same year and established in mid 1961, in compliance with Act of 1945, cited as the "Urban Redevelopment Law." It is directed by five appointed citizens, residents of Chester County, serving without compensation with a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. Tenure of initial appointments shall be for terms of one, two, three, four and five years respectively. Thereafter, the term of office shall be five years. Its purpose is redevelopment—undertakings and activities for the elimination of blighted areas. They may include planning, replanning, acquisition, rehabilitation, improvement, clearance, sale, lease, or other disposition of land, buildings or other improvements in blighted areas, or portions thereof, the relocation of businesses and families affected thereby in or outside of a redevelopment area, or any combination of such undertakings and activities; the installation, construction or reconstruction of streets, utilities, parks, playgrounds and other improvements necessary to carry out plans for a program of voluntary repair and rehabilitation of buildings or other improvements. The Authority may exercise the right of Eminent Domain. It will have authority to issue Bonds with all the qualities of negotiable instruments under the Law of Merchant and the Negotiable Instruments Law of Pennsylvania.

Registration Commission

Because voting is one of the most precious privileges and responsibilities of an American citizen, meticulous attention is paid to each detail of the mechanics of voting and the registration of voters. A permanent Registration Commission has been established under the Permanent Registration Act of April 29, 1937 (except Philadelphia), which makes the counties responsible for registration. Under it the County Commissioners are required to act as the Registration Commission. Once registered, a voter need not re-register unless, because he has not voted within a two year period, his registration has been cancelled. Even then, if he files his re-instatement application within ten days after having received notice that his registration will be cancelled, his registration will remain active. Registration may be accomplished at either the office of the Registration Commission in the Court House or at the proper location in the various municipalities throughout the County which the Traveling Registrars visit as they make their rounds offering their services to all eligible citizens. The sites chosen by the Traveling Registrars are always well publicized in advance of the Registrar's visit. Registration of voters closes fifty days prior to all Primary Elections, and reopens five days after Primary Elections; it closes fifty days prior to all Municipal and General Elections, and reopens thirty days following such elections. A qualified voter, moving from one precinct to another within Chester County, need not re-register. Instead, by applying for and completing and returning a change of address form, the Registration records are adjusted without the voters having to appear in person. A qualified voter may change party affiliations only between the November elections which are held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November, and Primary elections which are held on the third Tuesday of May each year except in the year of the nomination of a President of the United States in which year the General Primary shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of April. To be eligible for registration, a person must have been a citizen of the United States for at least one month. He or she shall have resided in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for at least ninety days (90) prior to the election. Further, a person must have resided in the election district where he or she shall offer to vote at least two calendar months. A minor who will be twenty-one years of age not later than the day after any election may register and vote at that election. It is necessary, however, to register prior to the final date of registration. Persons in actual military service may register by mail. Since no one can vote unless registered, the work of this department is very extensive in keeping the registry rolls up to date. Modern files and equipment are installed as the department expansion demands.

Retirement Board—Social Security

Chester County established a retirement system early 1943 under the Fourth Class County Retirement Law of July 8, 1941. The administrators of the Board are the County Commissioners, Treasurer, and the Controller. All County

Employees on a yearly or monthly salary basis are required by state law to join the system. Elected officials may join. They contribute sums to the retirement fund calculated on an actuarial basis according to their age and the amount of their salary. The County matches dollar for dollar the amount contributed by employees. The pension to which an employee is entitled is determined by the length of service and by the average salary for five years of the highest salary return. An employee may go on voluntary retirement on reaching the age of 60. Desired retirement age is 65, while maximum retirement age is 70. One dismissed after ten years of service without reaching the age of 60 is entitled to receive a pension. Social Security status has been made available for all employees, in addition to retirement fund benefits. Social Security status was made available for all employees in March 1957, retroactive to January 1956. Limitation of annuities is placed at eighty percent of average salary for last five years before retirement.

Safety Council, Chester County

Officially recognized as a non-profit, non-political organization by the Commissioners in 1958. Its purpose is directed toward the coordination and advancement of continuing safety programs in the schools, industry, homes and public areas of Chester County. The Council's work is directed by a volunteer executive director appointed by the organization's elected officials. The work of the Council is carried out by committee activity of public spirited citizens.

Salary Board

Chester County operates under a Salary Board as provided under the Act of 1955. The Board is composed of the County Commissioners and the Controller, and the elected row officers when salaries in their departments are to be considered. All county employee salaries and increments are determined by this Board except those of elected officials, whose salaries are determined by the legislature. To eliminate the haphazard system of the past for considering salaries, the Commissioners in 1960 caused the first complete study and evaluation of the duties and salaries for all county personnel under the jurisdiction of the Board to be completed. From the fundamental studies were developed job specifications for each classification; salary averages were gained for those prevailing for like classifications in other fourth class counties and in local area industry, and salary ranges were established for each classification as a guide or blue print. With this information the Board can approach the salary problem more scientifically and thereby render more equitable and just decisions.

Sealer of Weights and Measures

The first Regulator of Weights and Measures was appointed by the Governor in 1741. Protection of the public, through inspection and testing of all

scales and measuring devices in business establishments, was provided by Acts of 1911 and 1921. This is another service given by the County. Periodic inspections and test visits are made by the Sealer, and his deputy inspectors. Scales found to be inaccurate are removed from service until corrected and retested. When the Sealer of Weights and Measures and his deputies discover a device used deliberately to cheat the public in weight or measure, the device is confiscated and the user prosecuted. With the acquisition of new equipment in the spring of 1968, the inspectors will check pre-packaged foods to insure honest weight to the buyer. All gasoline pumps are checked at specified intervals to assure that correct measure is being given.

Tourist Promotion Bureau

As recent as 1963 Chester County was one of five counties in the Commonwealth with no organized tourist promotion. In June of that year a five-member board was created by Chester County Commissioners, and in November the Chester County Tourist Promotion Bureau opened its office in West Chester with a fulltime secretary.

Today the Bureau has a six-member Board, Executive Director, Secretary and several part-time Clerks. It is located in Room 108 North Wing, Court House, West Chester.

The establishment of the Bureau was a proper choice by the County Commissioners and the State of Pennsylvania. Despite a wealth of historical background, citizens from within and outside the county weren't aware of what the area had to offer.

The Bureau was specifically assigned to invite people to visit historic, friendly, beautiful and progressive Chester County and to stimulate those who call the county their home.

Commissioners said the Bureau would be allocated County funds to be spent solely for promotional activities and publications. Further, they said the bureau would provide free and unstinted assistance for every county-wide activity without involving direct financial subsidy.

The first publication was a professionally-prepared four-color brochure on the area. The State Travel Bureau hailed it as one of the most attractive in Pennsylvania.

Since then other informative pieces have been created—all free to the public. They include: "A Self-Guided Tour Into History", "Historical Covered Bridges", "Hotels-Motels and Restaurants", "Antiques Shops and Allied Services", "Battle of the Brandywine", and "The Brandywine".

Today the Bureau answers requests for the brochures from all over the United States, Canada, South America and parts of Europe. The promoting of the County and its many historical sites and activities is made through advertisements in some of the country's leading newspapers, publicity releases and the now well-known "Chester County Crier" which is issued quarterly.

The adoption of the Crier came about when a need for a central clearing house on dates of activities became apparent. The Bureau initiated publication of events listing everything of more than purely "local" interest. Organizations may list their events and activities by calling the Tourist Promotion Bureau at 696-4935. In conjunction with the Crier, a Community Calendar is published monthly in several county newspapers.

In five years time the Chester County Tourist Promotion Bureau has become a beehive of activity and numerous people have come to know the beauty of the County of Chester.

U.S. Government Donated Food

Setting up the U.S. Gov't donated food program by the County Commissioners in 1954, making distribution of food to the needy in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture Food Commodities through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Property and Supplies, is another important function which meets the needs of a segment of our residents. Basically, those residents of Chester County receiving food items are those on Social Security, those getting aid from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Assistance, those whose needs are determined by light or limited income, unemployed or part-time employees, and regularly employed persons with large families with insufficient income. The first distribution of food was made in December, 1954. Commodities which have been available and distributed were butter, cheese, dried milk, rice, beans, wheat flour, corn meal flour, shortening, lard, luncheon meat, pork and gravy and peanut butter. The warehouse for the storing of U.S. Gov't donated food has been established by the County in Coatesville. The County makes distribution therefrom to the residents in the areas is made at West Chester at the Armory and at specific food centers throughout the County in Kennett Square, Oxford, Berwyn, Phoenixville. Total commodities distributed to the residents from the origin of the program to December 31, 1967, was 4,865,100 pounds (to 96,885 families, or 430,295 persons).

Veterans Affairs

Another important service rendered by the County is the office of Veterans Affairs. This Bureau is a responsibility of the Commissioners. It was created by the County as provided under the Act of 1955, and operates under rulings of the Veterans' Administration. Duties are performed by a Director, an Assistant, and a Secretary. Offices are located at Room 313, North Wing, Court House, West Chester, Pa. 19380. It's purposes are to render service, furnish guidance, render assistance, and act as a clearing house for information in all matters affecting veterans, their dependents, their widows and children, and the parents of veterans, in matters of rehabilitation, insurance, pensions and bonus money after

veterans have been discharged from the service. It aids in obtaining hospitalization for veterans and in obtaining burial allowances. It distributes bronze grave markers and granite headstones provided by the County upon proper authorization. It marks graves in the County of veterans of all wars in which the United States has engaged. Annual appropriations are provided by the County to local veterans' organizations for patriotic exercises in honoring deceased veterans and for decorating their graves.

Water Resources Authority

Here again, to meet changing conditions, for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, welfare and to further conservation, the Commissioners, by resolution in 1961, created the Chester County Water Resources Authority, which was incorporated the same year. It is directed by nine appointed citizens, residents of Chester County, contributing their time. The officers include a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

Its purposes are to represent the Commissioners' interest in water resources in all of Chester County. Its major activities, so far, have dealt with the water supply, flood control and recreation project for the Brandywine Valley. The Water Resources Authority is responsible for acquiring land, easements and rights-of-way. This project is being carried out in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. The plan involves the construction of eleven dams and reservoirs over the next ten years.

The Water Resources Authority has also been the coordinating agency for the Upper East Branch Brandywine Open Space and Water Resources Project. This is a pioneering plan designed to preserve the quality of the stream and the character of the countryside by guiding development away from the stream system. Cooperating in the pioneering study are the Institute for Environmental Studies of the University of Pennsylvania, the Regional Science Research Institute, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters.

The intent of the project is to come up with a plan to indicate those areas which should be kept free of buildings or where buildings should be kept at low density. Basically, these are the flood plains, a buffer strip 300 feet wide along the stream, and the wooded hillsides. If the plan is accepted by the people in the eight townships involved, the next step would be to secure easements from the landowners to preserve the critical areas from building.

The Water Authority has also been responsible for having water needs surveys made for all of the major streams in Chester County. The only remaining area yet to be planned is the northeastern section of the County.

THE COURTS

The Court of Common Pleas

Six years before William Penn organized and founded the County of Chester in 1682 a Provincial Court had been established at Upland, now Chester. The first Court held in the original courthouse at Upland convened in 1680. The county seat was moved to Turks Head, now West Chester, in 1786 when the present courthouse designed by Thomas U. Walter was erected. Since that time the Court has continued to sit at West Chester. Three additions to the original courthouse at West Chester have been made, providing four courtrooms in addition to the original one, and both the original and second courtrooms have been renovated recently.

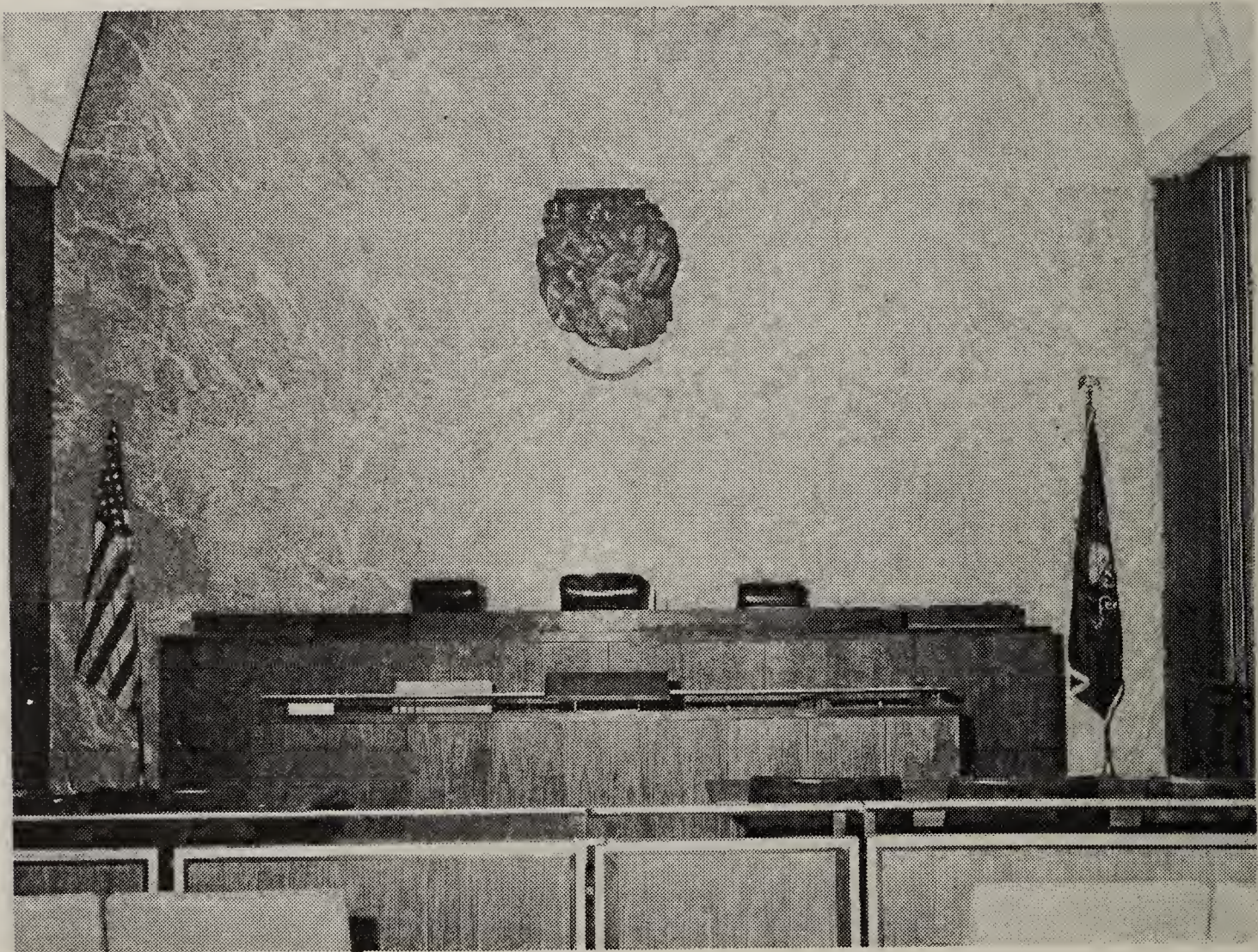
Under the provisions of Article V of the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1968 the judicial system of the Commonwealth has been unified. Included in the unification has been the consolidation of the former Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Jail Delivery, Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace, and Orphans' Court of Chester County into the Court of Common Pleas, effective January 1, 1969, with the former Separate Orphans' Court becoming a Division



Courtroom No. 1



Courtroom No. 2

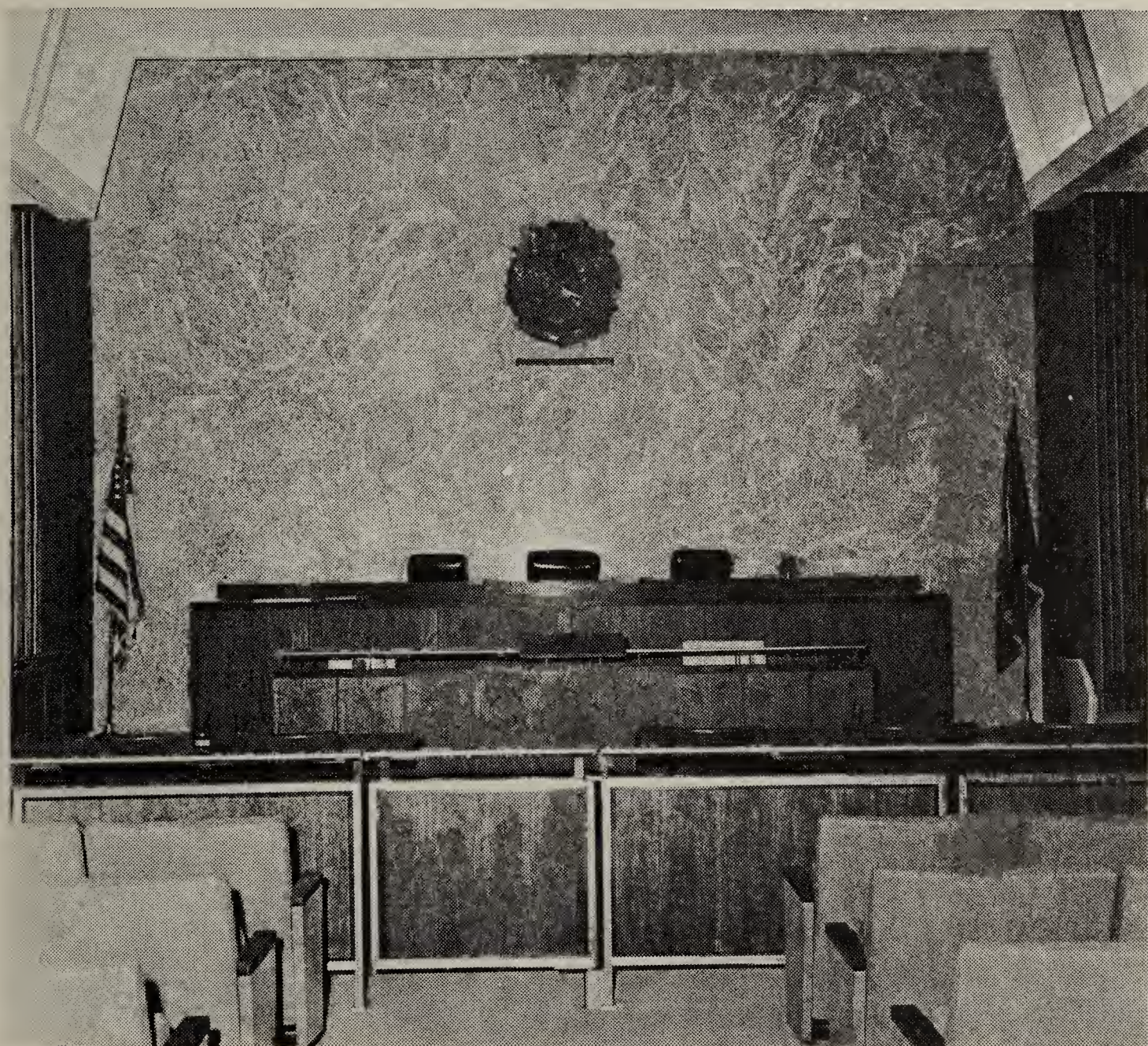


Courtroom No. 3

of the Court of Common Pleas. The Court of Common Pleas now consists of five members, a President Judge, three Associate Judges, and the President Judge of the Orphans' Court Division, formerly the President Judge of the Orphans' Court of Chester County prior to the consolidation of the Courts.

The County of Chester constitutes the Fifteenth Judicial District of Pennsylvania. The Court of Common Pleas, including its Orphans' Court Division, has jurisdiction of all matters within the county, whether civil or criminal and including juvenile proceedings, and through its Orphans' Court Division of decedents' and trust estates, guardianship estates and adoption of minors. Its jurisdiction also includes appeals from decisions of the Workmens' Compensation Board, Zoning Boards of Adjustment and from judgments of Aldermen and Justices of the Peace. Beginning January 1, 1970 it will also have jurisdiction of appeals from the courts of District Justices, whose jurisdiction in their respective magisterial districts, created under the Constitution of 1968, will then begin.

The Court of Common Pleas conducts trials by jury as well as trials without a jury in both criminal and civil matters. Under its equity jurisdiction it conducts trials without a jury of civil cases where special remedies not available on the law



Courtroom No. 4



Orphan's Court Mural

side of the Court may be granted. It also conducts hearings in matters affecting minors under the age of eighteen years, as provided by the Juvenile Court Act, which involve delinquency, dependency or neglect. The Orphans' Court Division construes the wills of decedents, the terms of trusts, the distribution of the estates of persons dying with or without a will and of trust estates, supervises guardianship estates and guardianships of the persons of minors, and has jurisdiction of adoption proceedings as well as certain other matters including the grant of marriage licenses in certain instances.

A Judge of the Court of Common Pleas acts with the two Jury Commissioners, one chosen by each major political party, in filling the "jury wheel", or pool, with the names of a sufficient number of jurors to serve on grand juries and on juries for the trial of civil and criminal cases. When ordered to do so by the Court the Sheriff and the Jury Commissioners draw from the jury wheel and the Sheriff summons for jury service the number of jurors designated by the Court to act as grand jurors or to serve in the trial of cases.

The Court of Common Pleas also appoints a Board of Viewers consisting of three members of the Bar and six laymen, from which Board on a case by case

basis a Jury of View, comprising one member of the Bar and two laymen, is appointed to view the premises, hear testimony and make an award of damages in cases of condemnation of land for public use as authorized by law on the part of the Commonwealth, various municipal subdivisions and authorities, and public utility companies. An appeal to the Court from the awards made by such Juries of View is available to both the property owner and the condemnor and results in a trial by jury in the Court of Common Pleas.

The Court of Common Pleas appoints a Chief Adult Probation Officer, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, and assistants to both. The former supervises probation and parole of adults convicted of criminal offenses and also supervises the collection and enforcement of Orders for support of wives, minor children and certain other relatives for whose benefit such Orders have been made by the Court. The latter investigates cases of delinquency, and in some instances cases of dependency and neglect, of minors under the age of eighteen years and also supervises probation of such minors. In addition, the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer now supervises the operation of the Juvenile Detention Home.

The Orphans' Court Division appoints an adoption investigator who investigates the circumstances of all prospective adoptions where placement reports upon persons to be adopted are filed.



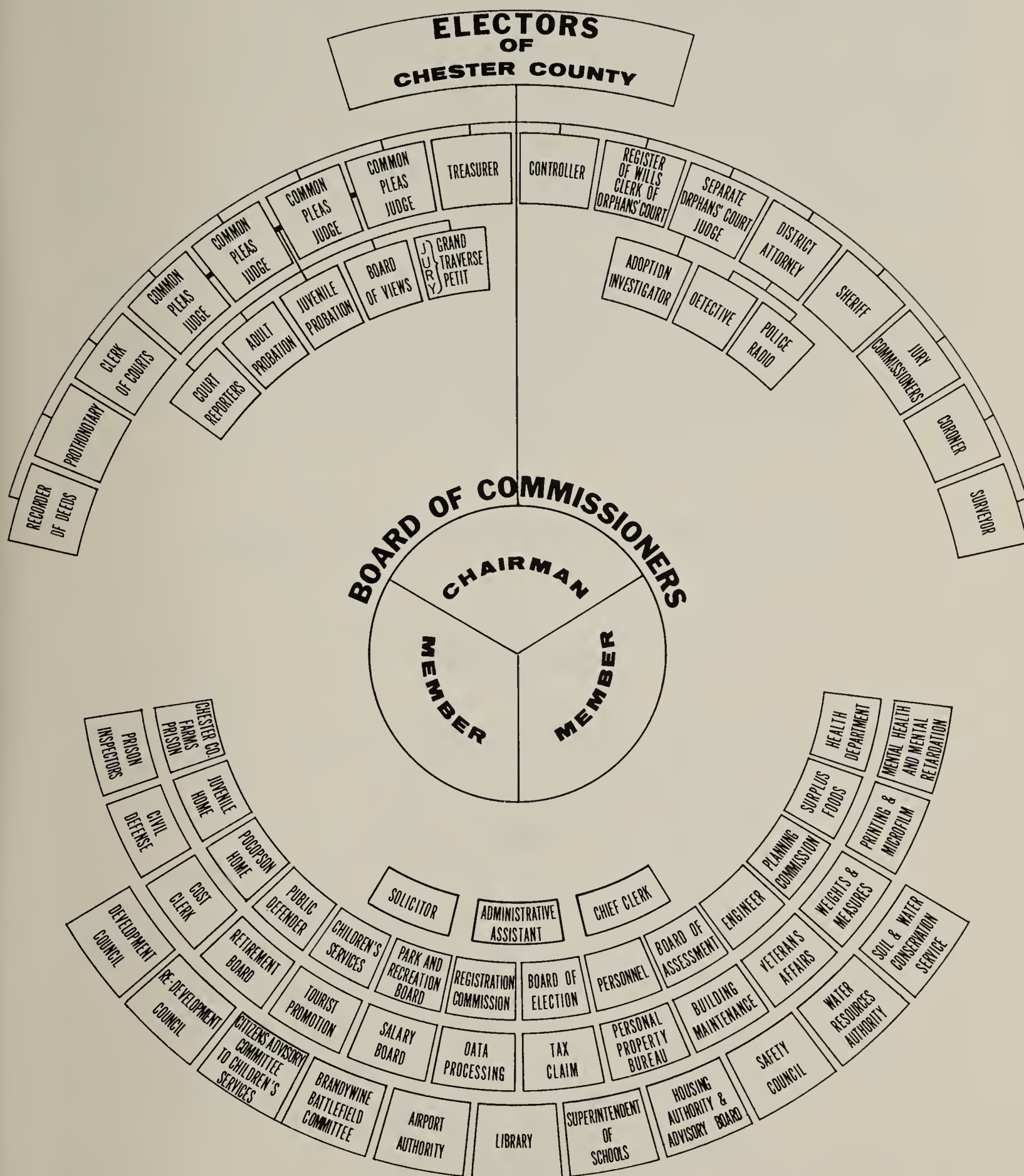
Orphan's Court

ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIALS

They are provided for by Article 14.1 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. Salaries are established by the Legislature and paid by the County.

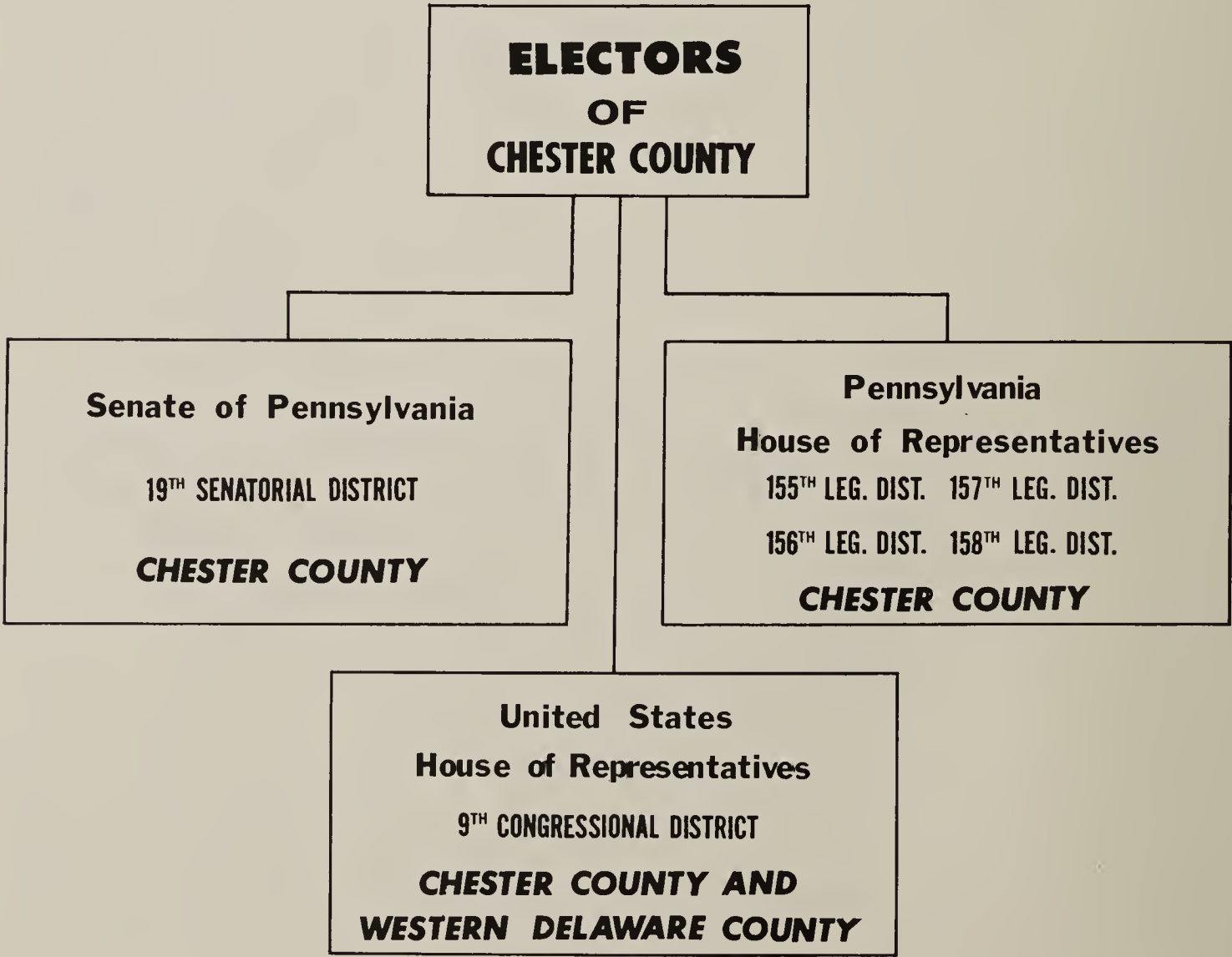
County Commissioners

This office was first created prior to 1720, and further provided for by the above Article, as early as 1786. County control then was set up to act as an agency or local administration, that people would have a direct voice in the management of matters of local concern. Today the County Commissioners perform under laws affecting them passed by the General Assembly and as provided for by the Constitution, Article 14.7, beginning with elections in 1875, and every third year thereafter. Following the Amendment of November 2, 1909, they were elected in 1911, and every fourth year thereafter. The term of office is four years with an annual salary of \$12,000.00. The law requires three members be elected to the Board: two representing the majority party and one the minority party. The General Assembly, subject to restrictions and provisions of the State Constitution, has the authority to determine what powers and duties shall be lodged in the hands of County Officials, how these powers shall be exercised and what offices shall be created to administer the laws. The Commissioners are the responsible managers and administrators of official county affairs. They are the sole contractors for the purchasing of all materials, supplies, equipment and construction, for the conduct of any service of county government. The Commissioners are vested with corporate powers and have the Official Seal. They are the ones upon whom legal process against the County is served. They have jurisdiction over county bridges, elections, registration, maintenance and supervision of the Court House, and the Sealer of Weights and Measures. They constitute the County Board of Elections, Registration Commission, and have the full responsibility for the administration of the County Welfare Services. They adopt budgets and tax rates for the County. They are members of such Commissions and Boards as may be deemed necessary. They have jurisdiction over all employees in offices and departments under the Commissioners, and appointments thereto. The Commissioners are assisted in their various duties by the officers



appointed by them, among whom are the Chief Clerk and Administrative Assistant, who exercise coordinative and administrative functions with respect to departments responsible to the Commissioners. They make decisions on operational problems referred to them by the department heads in the absence of the Commissioners if action cannot be postponed. They meet with persons making inquiries, suggestions or complaints, or having other county business, and make recommendations concerning these matters. The Chief Clerk arranges for advertising of bids. Both the Chief Clerk and Administrative Assistant attend meetings of the Commissioners in order to advise them on problems requiring advice and keep informed of County business. The Commissioners, as of January 1, 1962, have the responsibility of the Institution District and are provided with a Solicitor and an Assistant Solicitor, as legal advisors in all matters where they are involved legally, who interprets for them all laws affecting counties of the fourth class, as passed by the General Assembly. They also consult with the Commissioners in affairs involving legal aspects or problems. Assisting the Commissioners are the County Engineer and his staff. The Commissioners are members of the Board of Prison Inspectors, with the Chairman presently being a member of the County Commissioners.

Chester County & District Elected Legislators



Legislative Districts

155th: City of Coatesville, the Borough of Parkesburg, Atglen, Honey Brook and Elverson, and the Townships of Caln, Valley, Sadsbury, West Sadsbury, West Caln, West Brandywine, East Brandywine, Uwchlan, Upper Uwchlan, Wallace, Honey Brook, West Vincent, Warwick, South Coventry, North Coventry, East Coventry, East Nantmeal and West Nantmeal.

156th: Boroughs of Downingtown, West Chester and Malvern, and the Townships of East Caln, West Goshen, East Goshen, Willistown, Easttown and West Whiteland.

157th: Boroughs of Phoenixville and Spring City, and the Townships of East Whiteland, Tredyffrin, Charlestown, Schuylkill, West Pikeland, East Pikeland and East Vincent.

158th: Boroughs of Avondale, Kennett Square, Modena, Oxford, South Coatesville and West Grove, and the Townships of New Garden, Newlin, New London, Penn, Birmingham, East Bradford, East Fallowfield, East Marlborough, East Nottingham, Elk, Franklin, Highlands, Kennett, London Britain, Londonderry, London Grove, Lower Oxford, Pennsbury, Pocopson, Thornbury, Upper Oxford, West Bradford, West Fallowfield, West Marlborough, West Nottingham and Westtown.

Clerk of Courts

In some respects similar to the Prothonotary, the Clerk of Courts in fact is a Clerk or Secretary to the Quarter Sessions where misdemeanors are brought to trial, and the Oyer and Terminer which deals with commission of felonies. At present there are five terms of court each year, making for a full schedule for the Clerk of Courts. He is elected for a four year term with an annual salary of \$9,300.00, but will be \$11,160.00 effective Jan. 1, 1970. It is the Clerk of Courts or his duly appointed three deputies who are empowered to sign and affix the Seal of the Court to all its writs and processes, to administer oaths and affirmations in the conduct of the office business, and to assume custody of the Seal and all records of the courts. The records maintained by the Clerk of Courts are of great magnitude including, as they do, records of all decisions of the courts, convictions, acquittals, dismissals, and appeals. As secretary to the Court, the Clerk of Courts maintains a listing or docket of all persons to be brought before the courts for trial. He also receives the Bonds of Constables and Tax Collectors, one for each township within the County. In addition to his arduous duties pertaining to the Courts, the Clerk of Courts maintains all road and bridge records for the County. Here, in Chester County, one may find carefully kept road records dating back to 1700, inscribed in the style of penmanship peculiar to the era.

Controller

He is elected for a four year term with an annual salary of \$9,300.00, but will be \$11,160.00 effective Jan. 1, 1970. The office is operated pursuant to the provisions of the Act of 1955, subject to the power and duty of the County Commissioners, to manage and administer the fiscal affairs of the County. He shall supervise the fiscal affairs of the County, including the accounts and official acts relating thereto, of all officers or other persons who collect, receive, hold or disburse the public monies of the County. The Controller might well be termed the Auditor of the County or the watch-dog of county funds. He prepares all checks upon request from the departments concerned, and all payments by the County must bear his approval prior to the signing of checks by the Commissioners and the Treasurer. The Controller maintains the official books of the County, reflecting all its properties, receipts and expenditures; all debts and accounts due by county officers and other personnel, and the amount raised by each source of revenue. He also prescribes the form and manner of keeping the books of each of the county offices. Annually the Controller completes the audit of all County officers and reports in detail to the Court of Common Pleas. It is to the Controller that the Commissioners turn each November as they begin the preparation of the proposed budget for the coming year. He furnishes the Commissioners with comparative statements of revenues and expenditures for the current and preceding years, a statement of appropriations and requests from all county officers and agencies, that the Commissioners, in their role of responsible managers and administrators of the County's fiscal affairs, may complete the county budget. He is a member of the Salary Board and serves as Secretary of the Retirement Board. He is aided by a deputy and two bookkeepers, and a solicitor for advice on all legal matters.

Coroner

He is elected for a term of four years with an annual salary of \$7,000.00. On 1 January 1970, the salary will automatically increase to \$8,400.00. Traditionally the office is medically oriented and at present the Coroner is a licensed physician. The Coroner is charged with the responsibility and duty to investigate the death of those who come to a sudden or violent end. All deaths of sudden, violent or suspicious nature are to be investigated by the Coroner and must be reported immediately to him. In the event that the cause of death cannot be learned adequately otherwise he may direct that an autopsy be performed upon the body of the deceased when a useful purpose may be served by doing so. The Coroner works closely with the District Attorney and the police in conducting his investigations. The Coroner conducts inquests. The Coroner is assisted by deputies, who act for him in their own districts. Autopsies, when indicated, are performed on a fee basis in the Pathological Laboratories of the Voluntary hospitals within the County. The same law above provides that the Coroner act as Sheriff in case of vacancy by reason of removal from office or death or resigna-

tion before expiration of the term for which the Sheriff was commissioned, until another Sheriff is commissioned.

District Attorney

The District Attorney, "learned in the law," is elected by the voters of Chester County for a term of four years, pursuant to the Act of 1955, with an annual salary of \$12,000.00. His qualifications: he shall have been admitted to practice as an attorney before the Supreme or Superior Courts of this Commonwealth for at least two years prior to the time of taking oath of office, or shall have been admitted to practice before the Supreme or Superior Courts of this Commonwealth for at least six months prior to the time for taking the oath of office and have been practicing law before a Court of Record of this Commonwealth for at least five years. The District Attorney shall sign all bills of indictment and conduct in Court all criminal and other prosecution in the name of the Commonwealth. He is the principal law enforcement officer of the County, deriving his authority from the Attorney General.

(In 1850 the modern term "District Attorney" began to be applied.) He is charged with making investigations of any violations or alleged violations of the laws of the Commonwealth, which may come to his notice; taking such steps, and adopting such means as may be reasonably necessary to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth. The District Attorney maintains harmonious working relations with other police agencies in the County. A cooperative attitude among all the law enforcement agencies is apparent. Assisting with his functions are six assistant district attorneys; a chief of county detectives and three assistant detectives and eight county radio operators and five secretaries to process the enormous volume of investigations, preparations, prosecutions and other details. The staff is appointed by the District Attorney, subject to approval of the Salary Board. Within the office is maintained, at county level, a Bureau of Criminal Identification, established in 1957 with a modern current filing system available to all police within the County. The files include photographs, fingerprints and other means of criminal identification. The Chief County Detective and his Assistant Identification Officer work from the District Attorney's offices, investigating and reporting to him evidence required in the preparation of criminal cases. The County Detectives are general peace officers with the power of constables as they relate to criminal law and procedure. As a result of recently enacted reciprocal arrangement with other states, the District Attorney is now able to render considerable assistance to Chester County wives whose husbands have left the County or Commonwealth and do not contribute to their support. All persons committed to Chester County Farms are finger printed, photographed and a personal history completed and recorded at the prison. Copies are maintained at the prison and in the detective office of the District Attorney. A copy is sent to the State Police at Harrisburg, and to the F.B.I. in Washington. Photographs and searches for latent finger prints are made for all murders, and other felonies if requested.

Prothonotary

From the days of the Byzantine Court of the Eastern Empire, as early as 400 A.D., the Prothonotary has been a respected officer, rendering innumerable and valued services. In Pennsylvania, the Prothonotary was, until 1838, appointed by the Governor; now the Prothonotary is elected in compliance with the Act 1955. He serves a four year term with an annual salary of \$11,160.00. Briefly, the Prothonotary is, in fact, clerk or secretary to the Court of Common Pleas and in that capacity it is his duty to maintain records pertaining to all civil cases and to establish dockets and books for the keeping of such records. His general powers and duties are to sign and affix the Seal of the Court to all writs and processes and to the exemplification of all records; to take bail in civil actions; enter judgments at the instance of plaintiffs; sign all judgments or decrees; administer oaths and affirmations; and have custody of the records and Seal of Court. The records kept are voluminous. Included are the judgment docket in which he copies every judgment or award of the Court and the satisfaction, extension or revival of judgments; common pleas minutes; argument list; appearance dockets; divorce records; suits over custody of children; plaintiff and defendant indexes; records of municipal tax and merchandise liens; financial statements; records of equity proceedings; records of fictitious names in business; charter of certain corporations and organizations, including churches and charitable organizations; records of trusts; jury records and, in the case of contested elections, such election records over which the Court of Common Pleas has jurisdiction. Also, this office assists persons in matters of obtaining naturalization papers and passports, thereby eliminating the necessity of leaving our County for these documents. He is assisted in his duties by a staff of three deputies, four clerical assistants and a solicitor, all appointed by the Prothonotary, subject to approval by the County Salary Board.

Recorder of Deeds

He is elected for a four year term, pursuant to the Act 1955, with an annual salary of \$11,160.00. In a county the size of Chester County, the office of Recorder of Deeds is a busy place. It is the Recorder's responsibility to record all deeds, mortgages and assignment of mortgages, satisfaction of mortgages, rights-of-way, agreements, commissions, powers and letters of attorney, as well as certain financial statements and armed service discharges. Recorded and maintained also are copies of all highway maps, as well as maps and plans of all developments within Chester County, including plans of sub-divisions and instruments pertaining to the titles of land. Fees prescribed by the legislature are charged for recording all instruments with this commendable exception: no charge for recording a copy of discharges of veterans of the armed services. Because of the importance of a veteran's discharge paper, it is the philosophy of Chester County that the veteran be given a copy as a gift from the County in recognition of his service to his country. Photostatic copies of all records are made, maintaining one copy of each record at the County Court House, while the negative is

retained as an additional precaution against possible loss or damage through fire or other disaster in the vaults of the commercial photostat firm with which the County does business. He serves also as Agent for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the collection of all realty transfer taxes. He is assisted in the duties by a staff of two deputies and certain clerical assistants; all of whom are empowered to administer oaths and affirmations with the same force and effect as if administered by the Recorder or the deputies. Attesting to the activities in this office, with attorneys and their representatives searching through the huge volumes of deeds and other papers, each cross-indexed for easier reference, is the fact that in one year more than 17,000 legal instruments have been recorded. The Recorder of Deeds serves a vital service in Chester County.

Register of Wills—Clerk of Orphans' Court

The Register of Wills is elected for a four year term. Since Chester County has a separate Orphans' Court he is also by reason of his election to the Office of Register ex-officio Clerk of the Orphans' Court. His salary as Register of Wills and Clerk of the Orphans' Court is \$8760.00 per annum. As Register of Wills he is the Judge of Probate, having jurisdiction over admitting Wills to probate and for granting of Letters of Administration and Letters Testamentary. Inventories of the assets comprising estates and schedules of the lawfully authorized deductions are filed in the Register's Office and transmitted to the State Appraisers in order that the estates may be appraised. The Register serves as Agent for the Commonwealth in the collection of inheritance taxes being paid for this service a percentage of the gross amount of tax collected ranging downward from five per cent to one-quarter of one per cent depending on the amount of tax which is collected.

Accounts of Executors and Administrators are filed by the Register of Wills and certified to the Orphans' Court for appropriate action. The Register also issues required certified copies of Wills, exemplification of records, and short certificates required by Executors or Administrators in connection with the administration of the estates in which they have qualified.

An ex-officio Clerk of the Orphans' Court the Register receives for filing the accounts of Trustees and Guardians transmitting these to the Orphans' Court Judge for appropriate action. He has charge of the docket of the Orphans' Court and maintains and safeguards all records of that Court, including the impounded adoption records. As Clerk he advertises the filing of all accounts prior to the same being handed up to the Court for audit. The Clerk of the Orphans' Court issues all marriage licenses granted in the County and maintains the records of all persons who were born in Chester County between 1893 and 1906. Prior to 1893 the law made no provision for the registration of birth and since 1906 birth registration records are filed directly with the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the Commonwealth at Harrisburg. The Register in his joint capacity renders valued service to the County and carries out his duties, assisted by a staff of two deputies and a clerical assistant in probate matters, and a deputy, assistant clerk, and clerical assistant in Orphans' Court matters.

Sheriff

The office of sheriff is one of the oldest and most important local offices in Pennsylvania, having been brought to the colony by Dutch and English settlers a generation before the arrival of William Penn. All of Pennsylvania's State Constitutions have required that every county have a sheriff. Because the Constitution specifically provides that the sheriff is a county officer, the office of sheriff cannot be abolished by the Legislature. A constitutional amendment would be necessary to abolish the office or even to change the manner of selection or the term of office.

The duties of the sheriff are many and varied. As a peace officer, his duty is to keep the peace and quell riots and disturbances. In the manner and under the circumstances set forth in the law, he may make arrests, make searches of premises, seize certain property used illegally, remove certain nuisances, and issue firearms licenses to sell and permits to carry.

As an officer of the courts, civil and criminal, the sheriff serves the various writs, processes, orders and notices issued by the courts. He takes part in the selection of jurors and is responsible for summoning them. It is his duty to transport prisoners to and from their place of confinement and they are in his custody when in the court rooms. The execution of the various judgments of the courts is the responsibility of the sheriff, and in this capacity he conducts sale of real estate and personal property in execution proceedings. After the sale he distributes the proceeds to the parties entitled to them and makes a return to the court.

The sheriff has been a purely elective office ever since 1838, but the first to serve this county was in 1676. The present Sheriff, Jackson M. Ivins, is the 53rd sheriff to hold the office in Chester County. His term is for four years and his annual salary, set by the State Legislature is \$11,400.00.

He is assisted by a staff of five full time deputies whose salaries are regulated by the Salary Board and other extra deputies when needed. The extras are paid on a per diem bases and the rate is set by the State Legislature. This office is fully self-supporting, its income derived from the legally prescribed fee charged for services rendered.

Treasurer

The office of County Treasurer is an important function in the Administration of County fiscal affairs. Elected for a four year term in the manner provided by the Act 1955, with an annual salary of \$9,840.00 effective January 1, 1970. As in the case of the Sheriff, the Treasurer cannot succeed himself for re-election for the term next succeeding the one for which he may be elected. The Treasurer must receive all money due the County, issue receipts therefor, maintain accounts of all funds received and disbursed, and with the County Commissioners, sign all County checks which, as they are returned cancelled, must be filed in his office as permanent record. Daily the Treasurer records all disbursements from the County Treasury and forwards such records to the Controller, along

with daily records of all receipts, thus providing a further double safeguard on all public funds entrusted to his care. He states his accounts annually, along with receipts and vouchers and presents them to the Controller for final audit. It is his responsibility, together with the County Commissioners, to designate by resolution the depositories for all county funds. By law, such depositories must be banks, banking institutions or trust companies located within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. By custom, such depositories are located within Chester County. For further protection, each depository chosen by the Treasurer and the Commissioners furnishes a bond to secure payment of deposits and such interest as may accrue to the County; or in lieu of such a bond, securities may be placed in escrow with the Federal Reserve Bank. More than 80,000 receipts, all in triplicate, are recorded annually by the Treasurer. Licenses in excess of 30,500 a year are issued by this office, which is the Agent for the Commonwealth for fishing, hunting and dog licenses. Checks for payment of all County expenditures are drawn in this office. The Treasurer is also a member of the Retirement Board.

The Treasurer's modern office equipment includes Remington Rand Electric Card-Veyor (cylinder type) for filing tax cards, averaging now approximately 90,000 with a maximum potential of 130,000 cards. Such modern improvements render a high degree of efficiency in the operations and costs of the office for the residents of Chester County.

Surveyor

He is elected for a four year term, but without salary. Originally he performed the engineering duties, now performed by the County Engineer. The position now has only an historic interest.



Birmingham Meeting

POINTS OF INTEREST

Baldwin's Country Store

Route 52, between West Chester and Lenape.

Brinton House

Erected 1704, on U.S. 202, just over Chester County line below Dilworthtown.

New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Medicine

Route 926 (Street Road) between Willowdale and London Grove.

Brandywine Battle Field

Just East of Chadds Ford, North of U.S. 1, in both Chester and Delaware Counties, including the Headquarters of Washington and LaFayette.

Bridges (Covered)

Bell Bank on Octorara, on Route 15156; Glen Hall, West Brandywine, on Route 15080, between Embreeville and Northbrook; Glen Hope, Little Elk, just South of Route 15008, West of Lewisville; Gibson's, East Brandywine, on Route 15076, between Sugar's Bridge and Harmony Hill Road on U.S. 322; Hall's, French Creek, on Route 15071, near Wilson's Corner; Kennedy's, just North of Kimberton and West of 15059, French Creek; Knox, Valley on Route 15050, at Valley Forge Park; Larkins, Marsh, South of Route 15018 and Milford Mills; Linton Stevens, Big Elk, just South of Route 15238, from New London below New Hope; Mercer Ford, Octorara, South of Atglen; Newcomer's, Octorara, just North of Route 15156; Pine Grove, Octorara, on Routes 15006 and 15024 near Tweeddale; Rapp's, French Creek, West of Phoenixville, South of Route 23; Rudolph & Arthur, Big Elk, on Route 15015, North of Lewisville; Speakman's, 2, Buck Run, on Route 15068, South of Hepzibah.

Coventry Forge

The first in Chester County—1717, off Route 23, between Bucktown and St. Mary's.

Diamond Rock School (Octagonal)

North of Paoli, on Route 15108 in Chester Valley.

Embreeville State Hospital

Route 15180, between Marshallton and Romansville.

Geology and Natural Science, Falls of French Creek

Off Route 23, North from Knauertown.

Historical Society—Chester County

North High Street, West Chester.

Hopewell Furnace and Federal-State Parks

North of Route 23, on Route 15133 and 15210, between Elverson and St. Mary's.

Immaculate College of Liberal Arts for Women

Route 15095, between Morstein and Frazer.

Lincoln University

Now an integrated liberal arts institution, at Lincoln University, Pennsylvania—On Route U.S. 1, just East of Oxford.

Longwood Gardens

Internationally famous, at intersection of U.S. 1, and Route 52, at Anvil.

Swiss Pine's Park

Route 15049, between Devault and Charlestown, North of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Sharp's Woods Reserve

Sugartown Road, South of Berwyn.

Lukens Steel Company

One of the oldest continuous steel manufacturers in America, on South First Avenue, Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

The Newcomen Society

Upper Uwchlan Township (North Ship Road) Route 15184.

Paoli Monument

The site of the infamous slaughter of General Wayne's troops, on Route 15106 and Monument Avenue, Malvern.

Pennhurst State School

Route 83, between Spring City and Parkerford.

Pocopson Home

For the care of County indigent residents, on Route 52, between Lenape and Anvil.

Chester County Farms

For the incarceration of prisoners, off Route 52, adjoining the Pocopson Home, between Lenape and Anvil.

Red Rose Inn

Famous by reason of annual rent being paid by one red rose, at Jennersville, on U.S. 1, between West Grove and Oxford.

Star Rose Gardens

The country's outstanding Rose Grower, and the oldest in America in rose growing experience, South of West Grove and U.S. 1.

cont.

Scouting: Horseshoe Scout Reservation

Open year round, on the Octorara, of 650 acres, off U.S. 1, to the right, two miles West of Rising Sun, Maryland.

Girls

100 acres, open year round, Camp Tweeddale, on Route 15024, below Oxford, near the City of Chester Water Reservoir.

Townsend House

Built in two sections, 1785 and 1830, 225 North Matlack Street, West Chester.

Valley Forge Park and Washington's Headquarters

On Route 83, North from U.S. 202.

Warwick Furnace site

1737, famous for Cannon, Cannon Balls and the first Franklin Stoves, on Route 23, near St. Mary's.

Waynesborough

Home of General Wayne, of Revolutionary fame, South of Paoli, on Route 15111.

West Chester State College

Teacher education (Philips Autographed Library) South High Street, West Chester.

Westtown School

Treasure Room, in main school building, on Route 15090, South of Route 3, East of Chatwood, West Chester.



Valley Forge Huts

